

EGYPT,
AND MOHAMMED ALI;

&c. &c.

VOL I.

“ Visit veterum Thebarum magna vestigia ; et manebant structis molibus
litteræ Ægyptiæ, priorem opulentiam complexæ. . . . Aliis quoque
miraculis intendit animum, quorum præcipua fuere Memnonis saxeæ effigies,
ubi radiis solis icta est, vocalem sonum reddens : disjectasque inter et vix
pervias arenas instar montium eductæ Pyramides, certamine et opibus
regum : lacusque effossa humo, superfluentis Nili receptacula ; atque alibi
angustiæ, et profunda altitudo, nullis inquirentium spatiis penetrabilis. Exin
ventum Elephantinen ac Syenen, claustra olim Romani Imperii.”

TACIT. *Annal.* lib. ii. cap. 60, 61.

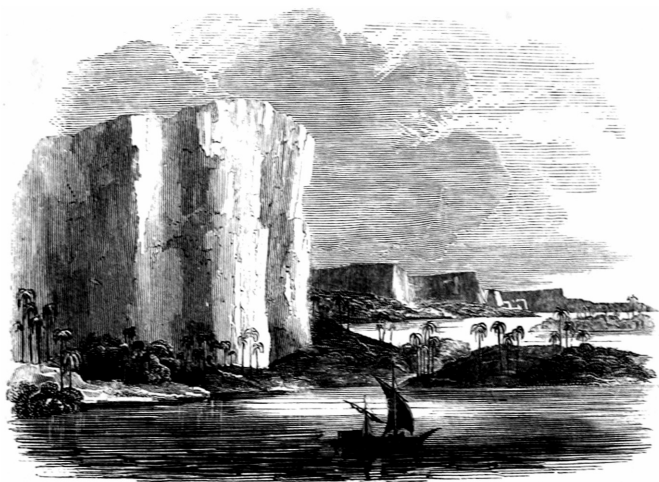
“ How has kind heav'n adorn'd the happy land,
And scatter'd blessings with a wasteful hand !
But what avail her unexhausted stores,
Her blooming mountains, and her sunny shores,
With all the gifts that heaven and earth impart,
The smiles of nature, and the charms of art,
While proud oppression in her valleys reigns,
And tyranny usurps her happy plains ?
The poor inhabitant beholds in vain
The redd'ning orange and the swelling grain :
Joyless he sees the growing oils and wines,
And in the myrtle's fragrant shade repines :
Starves, in the midst of nature's bounty curst,
And in the loaded vineyard dies of thirst.”

ADDISON.

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EGYPT,
AND
MOHAMMED ALI;
OR,
TRAVELS IN THE VALLEY OF THE NILE.

BY
JAMES AUGUSTUS ST. JOHN.



SITE OF CHENOBOSION.

IN TWO VOLUMES.—VOL. I.

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1834.

TO
THE REV. VERE MONRO,

THE FOLLOWING VOLUMES

ARE INSCRIBED,

BY

HIS SINCERE FRIEND AND FELLOW-TRAVELLER,

THE AUTHOR.

INTRODUCTION.

I. EGYPT, from its geographical position and commercial importance, has in all ages acted a conspicuous part in the history of the world. No surprise can therefore be felt at the profound interest which the learned and ingenious part of mankind have always experienced in whatever concerns its ancient monuments or actual condition. In the most remote ages, we behold the Patriarchs, attracted by its fertility and abundance, abandon their own country to sojourn in this land. Hither, likewise, travelled the sages and philosophers of Greece, not perhaps, as is commonly supposed, to study wisdom under Egyptian masters ; but to make their own observations on its government, policy, arts, sciences, and the extremely peculiar character, which its inhabitants, while they subsisted as a nation, continued to manifest in all their actions. From those remote periods to the present, though the Egyptian race has long disappeared from among mankind, and their language become an enigma, the country they inhabited, and the monuments of gran-

deur and power which they left behind, have been an object of untiring curiosity ; and to this source of interest, which can never cease or diminish so long as the history of the arts shall be thought worthy of attention, another, of a more popular nature, has now been added, in the political and moral revolution commenced by Mohammed Ali. A despot, destitute of the resources supplied by study, and an enlarged knowledge of mankind, relying solely on his own rude genius, and the hints furnished by his personal experience, has manifested the design, not merely to found a dynasty, — which in the East would be nothing new ; — but at the same time to regenerate and conduct into the track of European civilisation, a people demoralised and degraded by a thousand years of political servitude. But to profess and undertake are easy. Selym, Ab-dul-Hamid, and Mahmood may justly, perhaps, obtain credit for similar projects ; but the deplorable condition of the Turkish empire is a proof that their enterprises are simply entitled to the praise of well-meaning efforts, rendered ineffectual by ignorance and want of genius. To know whether Mohammed Ali should be ranked in the same class of projectors, we have only to observe the effects produced upon the country and people by his administration ; from which his character and intellectual endowments, — the only instruments he can possess for effecting his purposes, — will be much better ascertained, than from any tact which he may exhibit in diplomatic transactions.

II. Many considerations connected with the above views concurred in determining me to visit Egypt. Various works had, I knew, been recently added to those bequeathed to us by former writers on its antiquities and resources ; but, upon an attentive examination of the greater number of them, I found that, on several important points, their authors seemed to possess extremely vague and imperfect information, and differed in a remarkable manner from each other. It therefore appeared, if I valued the acquisition of correct notions, and felt a repugnance to adopt, on a subject so highly interesting, ideas palpably crude and extravagant, that it was necessary to become a traveller myself, and form my own opinions on the spot. Once in the country, the desire of tracing southward, as far as possible, the footsteps of Egyptian civilisation, induced me to extend my journey into Nubia, to about the latitude of Mekka, beyond which the Nile is not navigable, and where all important monuments cease. As I had anticipated, the result was productive of extreme gratification. The rock temples and extinct volcanoes of Nubia, — now, for the first time, explored, — the pyramids of Ghizeh, — the colossal ruins of Thebes, — the Upper and Lower Cataracts, — the savage beauties of Lake Mœris, — the rose-gardens and olive plantations of the Arsinoëtic Nome, — the desert, — the Bedouins, — and, above all, the grandeur and wonderful qualities of the Nile, — united in maintaining the persuasion that, in selecting the scene of my observations, I had done well in preferring Egypt and Nubia to all other

parts of the world. Such notions, however, as I had derived from my previous studies, proved, upon examination, both defective and incorrect. In many respects, the country itself had changed ; for the people, projected by recent innovations into the track of improvement, appeared in many respects to be daily assimilating more and more to the nations of Europe ; still preserving, however, in this perceptible mutation, those striking peculiarities of manners and habits which characterise every Oriental people. Hitherto the innovation of Mohammed Ali might be said to have produced no beneficial external result ; but it was clear that public opinion, and the sentiments of individuals, — the roots of action, — had undergone a change. Without knowing why or wherefore, the bigoted Turk and ignorant Fellah had ceased to exhibit, in their intercourse with Europeans, that brutal contempt which is the most offensive characteristic of barbarians ; taking their tone, perhaps, from their Ruler, who, it matters little whether from partiality or policy, openly evinces, on all occasions, a respect for enlightened foreigners.

III. Immediately on my arrival, I found that Egypt was in a position truly extraordinary : the ancient landmarks had been removed ; new ideas, feelings, wants, had been generated : society, convulsed to its centre, and reduced, as it were, to a state of fusion, seemed ready to assume any new form into which the genius of the times might mould it ; but what that new form was to be, no man, whether

high or low, appeared competent to discover. Of those Europeans who had long resided in the country, and who might for that reason be supposed capable of communicating instruction to a stranger, numbers decried every measure adopted by the Pasha ; while others, perhaps equally competent, habitually applauded his conduct, explaining away what was harsh or unseemly, or justifying it upon the plea of necessity. By this means, whether I desired it or not, I was placed in the position of a judge, who listens to the pleadings of two parties ; and this continued during the whole of my stay in Egypt. Fortunately it was not necessary blindly to adopt the views of either party. The former condition of the country I had learned from historians and preceding travellers ; and, to enable me to judge of its present state, the whole land lay before me. Leaving, therefore, the Franks and their theories, I traversed the whole valley of the Nile, from the sea to the Second Cataract, including the Fayoum and the Delta, visiting the towns and villages, — those situated in the interior, and on the edge of the Desert, as well as those standing near the river,—conversing, as frequently as possible, with the poor peasant behind his plough, with the village Sheikh, with the Turkish Kiasheff ; and observing, day after day, their dress, their dwellings, and their food. In this way, I succeeded in correcting many ideas acquired from reading and the conversation of Europeans. Here I saw, naked and undisguised, the effects of the Pasha's policy ; there was no room for mistake ; for the poor, desperate in

their misery, spoke out, and made no mystery of their sentiments. But while I heard their opinions, and deeply commiserated their distress, I could not refrain from acknowledging the difficulties which surrounded their Ruler. Was it ambition, or was it necessity, that involved him in the struggle with the Sultan, which inflicted on Egypt all the evils I witnessed? Upon the answer to this question hinges the whole inquiry, whether the Pasha is to be considered a just though despotic prince, or a selfish adventurer, sacrificing wantonly the happiness of millions to his own personal aggrandisement? and this answer I have endeavoured to give in the following work. Despising mere declamation, which, in the end, neither instructs nor persuades, I have laboured to be impartial both towards prince and people, — expressing my opinions of both with equal freedom; for which reason, should these Travels ever fall into their hands, the probability is, that both would be equally offended. But the traveller who bestows upon the subject before him all the pains in his power, is no way answerable for the conclusions at which he may arrive, since these must be regarded as the result necessarily produced upon his mind by the objects he beholds. And this result, and this only, if he be honest, will he ever consent to place before the world.

IV. Respecting the antiquities of Egypt, the opinions which an attentive examination suggests

to me, will be found to differ materially from those of many former writers, whose character and abilities I, nevertheless, highly esteem. But it will be admitted to be the duty of a traveller faithfully to describe the impressions made by the objects he observes upon his own imagination, whether they resemble or not the pictures of those objects which may have been traced by others. Much appears to depend, in matters of this kind, upon the temperament and intellectual habits of the observer ; and as the public will quickly discover what his temperament and habits are, they will know exactly what value they ought to set on his conjectures and decisions. The incorrect ideas concerning ancient Egypt and the Egyptians, which seem commonly to prevail, even among the learned, may partly be owing to our too great veneration for ancient authors, who would appear however to have fallen into many errors, misled by the priests, or, where their notes were deficient, by a lapse of memory, to which we all are liable ; for Diodorus insists that Herodotus relates many fables ; and whoever shall be at the pains to examine the work of the Sicilian antiquarian, will find that he also has sinned in the same spirit. Sometimes to dissent from the opinion of these authors is, therefore, excusable. And in my inquiry into the origin and purpose of the Pyramids, I have fully availed myself of this privilege, venturing even to derive from the narrative of Herodotus himself, proofs in support of an hypothesis directly the reverse of his own.

V. In the arrangement of my Travels I have adopted the least ambitious of all forms,—that of a journal; to which several reasons determined me: first, though greater brevity might perhaps have been attained by rejecting, after the manner of Volney, every thing of a personal nature, other and still greater inconveniences than the addition of a few pages to the work might have arisen from this plan; for, materials so arranged have, to many, the appearance of a series of unconnected dissertations rather than a book of travels; and thus the interest would be diminished. Secondly, having written my descriptions on the spot, while the objects were before me, or fresh in my memory, to cast them into any other shape, without destroying their resemblance to the things described, — in which consists, perhaps, their only merit, — seemed hardly practicable. Lastly, narrative, from which what personally relates to the author is not wholly excluded, seems, in works of this kind, to be the form most generally approved. Since, therefore, much is gained, and nothing need be lost, by conforming to the rules which appear to have been established by public taste, I have, as far as possible, strictly adhered to the common method, noting down daily what I saw, and the observations suggested by it.

VI. For my account of the manufactories, the colleges, the schools, the harems, the history of the war in Syria, &c., I derived the materials from sources, not, perhaps, accessible to many. Chance

threw them in my way. I was furnished by several individuals with documents and illustrations, of most of which I was permitted the free use, while at others it was necessary to glance only. Some I have been compelled, after mature consideration, wholly to suppress, lest persons to whom I consider myself deeply indebted should be compromised by their publication. But these are few ; the greater number I have introduced, or employed as the ground-work of my statements, and their authors are entitled to my gratitude ; though to express it in any other than a general way might be injurious to their interests or their safety.

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EGYPT

AND MOHAMMED ALI;

&c. &c.

CHAPTER I.

ARRIVAL AT ALEXANDRIA—FIRST APPEARANCE OF THE SHORE—
ARAB PILOTS—THE HOTELS—VIEW OF THE ANCIENT PORT—
THE TARBOOSH—REMAINS OF THE ANCIENT CITY—HOUSES OF
THE TURKS AND ARABS—DATE GROVES—THE CAMEL—EN-
VIRONS OF THE CITY—MALARIA—EGYPTIAN SYSTEM OF IRRI-
GATION—ILLUSTRATION OF SCRIPTURE—A COLLECTION OF
ANTIQUITIES—SCARABÆI—FEMALE ORNAMENTS—ARTICLES OF
A LADY'S TOILETTE—SYMBOL OF CHRISTIANITY—SAFETI OF
TYPHON—OSIRIS, ISIS, AND APIS.

Thursday, Nov. 8. 1832.

I. THE satisfaction with which I approached the shores of Egypt, over which history, both ancient and modern, has cast so remarkable a degree of glory, was very much heightened by a feeling of security, a sense of danger removed; it having been more than once doubtful, during the voyage from Leghorn, whether we should ever arrive or not, so boisterous and contrary were the winds, and so tempestuous was the sea. On the preceding day, the level sandy coast of Africa, west of the Arab's Tower, had been for a short time visible; but it being found that we

had made the land much too far to the westward, and the wind proving contrary, it was necessary again to put out to sea, and work nearly in the teeth of the weather towards Alexandria. In the course of the night the sailors, with their glasses, more than once caught glimpses of the land; but it did not become visible to my unpractised eye until some time after dawn, when the sun, rising behind the city, enabling us to distinguish objects much sooner than we could otherwise have done, every eminence and inequality in the line of the horizon appeared, relieved against the pure saffron sky. The first thing seen of Alexandria was the Pasha's palace, on the point of the Cape of Figs; the next Pompey's Pillar; and then the windmills and the shipping in the harbour. The land itself was so low that we seemed to descend to it from the water. For some time before we discovered the shore, the colour of the sea, by the intermixture of the waters and mud of the Nile, was changed from blue to a dirty green; a circumstance which has been remarked by former travellers, who thence infer that the line of the coast is continually advancing and gaining upon the sea, though it seems clear, from the physical conformation of the shore, that no further enlargement of Egypt can be effected by the agency of the river.

II. As we drew near the land, numerous sea-mews and other aquatic birds were observed skimming along or settling upon the water. The wind had sunk into

a light breeze ; the sky was cloudless ; the sun, warm as during summer in our northern latitudes, cast a veil of beauty over both sea and land ; and my mingled feelings of thankfulness, curiosity, and joy, strongly disposed me to invest every object around with golden hues. But independently of all this, the scene was highly interesting : pillars, obelisks, forts, palaces, with various other edifices of use or luxury, white and sparkling in the sun, lining the shore, and partly beheld through a forest of masts ; merchant vessels and ships of war, with outspread sails and colours flying, entering or leaving the port ; and numerous jerns, feluccas, and pilot-boats scudding with large white sails along the shore. The Bay of Aboukir, rendered memorable by the battle of the Nile, was distinctly visible on our left ; and the small sandy eminences extending on the right from the city to the ancient Necropolis were surmounted by a number of windmills of a peculiar construction and not un-picturesque aspect. Presently the Arab pilots, in their characteristic and striking costume, approached the ship, and, putting one of their number on board, began to direct our movements. We were about two hours and a half in making our way into the harbour, the entrance to which is peculiarly difficult and dangerous ; in fact, our vessel was more than once on the point of striking against other ships, one or two of which it actually touched in passing. As soon as we had entered the port, numerous boats, filled with Arabs, Turks, and dirty Italians, came crowding

alongside ; and when the anchor was cast, the whole of this promiscuous rabble, as motley in complexion as in garb, poured in upon the deck, chattering, bargaining, wrangling, like a herd of Jews in Change Alley. Like every other passenger, I was most anxious to be on shore, where I was received with much politeness and hospitality by the American consul.* There are, in Alexandria, two hotels, kept by Italians, where all Europeans, who do not choose to be a burden on their consuls, remain during their stay in the city. They are perhaps equally respectable ; but the “ *Aquila d’Oro*,” at which I myself lodged, is generally preferred, on account of its situation, on the quay of the quarantine harbour, over the whole of which it commands a prospect, from the little Pharillon to the Castle, which, according to most travellers, occupies the site of the ancient Pharos.† In the evening, when about to retire to my inn, I learned the existence of a salutary but sometimes inconvenient regulation, compelling all persons who go abroad after dark to have a lantern borne before

* Mr. John Gliddon.

† Cæsar, who saw Alexandria in its most flourishing state, thus describes the light-house and island : — “ *Pharus est in insula turris, magna altitudine, mirificis operibus exstructa, quæ nomen ab insula accepit. Hæc insula, objecta Alexandriæ, portum efficit : sed a superioribus regionibus in longitudinem passuum DCCCC in mare jactis molibus, angusto itinere et ponto, cum oppido conjungitur. In hac sunt insula domicilia Ægyptiorum, et vicus, oppidi magnitudine : quæque ubique naves imprudentia aut tempestate paululum suo cursu decesserint, has more prædonum deripere consueverunt. Iis autem invitis, a quibus Pharus tenetur, non potest esse, propter angustias, navibus introitus in portum.*” — *De Bell. Civil.* iii. 112.

them ; individuals not thus provided being liable to be arrested by the nightly guard, and detained until the morning in the guardhouse. Accordingly, the American consul, at whose house I had dined, ordered one of his Arab servants to conduct me with a lantern to my inn. It was late : few persons were in the streets ; the Arab paced before me in silence : but, not knowing at which of the hotels I lodged, took me to the wrong one. This was perplexing. He understood no European language whatever ; I could speak no Arabic : so we stood still in the street, looking at one another. The few persons who passed us were all natives, ignorant of every language but their own, and therefore incapable of affording aid to a stranger in such a dilemma. After turning over the matter in his mind for some time, the man seemed to derive some encouragement from my long black beard, and in an enquiring tone pronounced the word “ Greco ? ” I shook my head. “ Franco ? ” I replied in the affirmative, in all the languages I knew : but this did not help us in the least. He was as far as ever from knowing whither I desired to go. At length I remembered that the Tuscan consul resided at the Golden Eagle, and upon my repeating the name of that important personage, the Arab turned round, and discovered the unknown house within five paces of where we stood.

Friday, Nov. 9.

III. I was awakened, soon after dawn, by the singular scream of the stork under my window,

mingled with the shrill voices of the Arabs, and the crowing of the cock, which does not here, as in Europe, proclaim the approach of morning, but is heard indifferently at all hours. The window of my bedchamber overlooked the ancient port, where on the left I enjoyed a view of the island on which the Pharos of Ptolemy Soter stood ; and, on the right, of the modern fort, which commands the entrance into the harbour. A low ledge of rocks, commencing at the site of the Pharos, stretches out a considerable distance into the sea, and over this the waves break continually in spray and foam. Other rocks, unconnected with the former, occupy the centre of the harbour's mouth, and, opposing the course of the waves, are almost perpetually covered with snowy breakers. In compliance with the custom of travellers I this day had my head shaved, and assumed the *tarboosh*, an elegant red felt cap, with blue silk tassel ; which, in Egypt, has almost universally superseded the turban.* To guard the head from the heat of the sun, two of these caps, with another of double calico, are worn ; and as the season advances, or as we proceed farther south, a thick handkerchief is stuffed into the crown. Notwithstanding that the hair is

* But this must be regarded as a highly injudicious innovation ; for, besides that the forehead, entirely exposed to the burning sun, becomes blistered and wrinkled, the eyes suffer extremely from the fierceness of the light, so that, after a few days' journey, ophthalmia frequently ensues. Broad-brimmed hats, if the Pasha could cause them to be adopted, might in part prevent the Egyptians from degenerating into a race of Cyclops.

always closely shaven, all these envelopes keep the head exceedingly warm, and may perhaps contribute more than any other cause to render the Egyptians gray-headed from their youth. The effect of the climate of Egypt* upon the hair is remarkable. My own beard, which in Europe was soft, silky, and almost straight, began immediately on my arrival at Alexandria to curl, to grow crisp, strong, and coarse, and before I had reached Es-Souan resembled horse-hair to the touch, and was all disposed in ringlets about the chin. This is no doubt to be accounted for by the extreme dryness of the air, which, operating through several thousand years, has, in the interior, changed the hair of the negro into a kind of coarse wool.

IV. It is the custom among the Europeans of Alexandria to dine about noon, after which, in imitation of the Orientals, they generally indulge themselves with a siesta ; but I always found one or two individuals who preferred riding out among the ruins. Mr. Weight, a fellow-lodger at the Aquila, undertook, on the present occasion, to be my guide. Early in the afternoon, therefore, we mounted our beasts ; and, passing through the Frank quarter, proceeded towards that portion of the ancient city in which the Serapeum is supposed to have been situated. The

* Volney's idea that Alexandria ought to be considered rather as part of the Libyan desert than of Egypt, because neither the mud nor water of the Nile reaches it, is absurd ; unless we also choose to say

ruins of Alexandria are indeed ruins. Babylon itself, which it once nearly rivalled in grandeur, can scarcely be said to have left fewer vestiges of its existence and magnificence; for, beyond the precincts of the modern town, you behold far and near upon the plain nothing but vast irregular mounds of rubbish or sand, which may probably conceal the substructions or fragments of ancient edifices. Here and there, where the Pasha's workmen have been digging among these mounds for stones, you in fact discover the foundations of various Greek or Roman buildings, in stone or brick, with arched passages, portions of the old cisterns, fragments of pillars, or perhaps entire columns of a pale red granite, overthrown, or half-buried in the sand. Were the whole of these prodigious heaps of rubbish cleared away, private houses, little less entire than those of Pompeii, might perhaps be discovered; but the plan at present pursued by the Pasha can lead to no other result than the total destruction of whatever ancient relics time may have spared; for if, while excavating at random, the Arabs find a wall, an arch, or a pavement, they immediately demolish it, and take up the stones, without attempting to ascertain whether any other part of the edifice to which it belonged exist or not. It cannot, of course, be expected or desired that

that the Pyramids, the Citadel of Cairo, the Temple of Dendera, the Memnonium, the Tombs of the Kings, &c. are not in Egypt; since all these are situated beyond the precincts of the cultivable land and the inundations of the Nile.

Mohammed Ali should be guided by the predilections of an antiquarian ; but had he about him but one person of superior taste and judgment, he might easily be made to understand that his reputation, even as a politician, of which he is most jealous, would scarcely be liable to suffer diminution should he feel or feign a stronger interest than he has hitherto exhibited in what concerns the fine arts. But of this hereafter. In the midst of the prostrate remains of the ancient city we find, thinly scattered, the modern dwellings of the actual lords of the soil, of which some are fine large houses, in the Turkish style of architecture, others the meanest cabins in which poverty and wretchedness ever took shelter. The former are for the most part situated in gardens, or rather small groves of date palms ; which, with their lofty columnar trunks and long pendulous branches waving and trembling in the breeze, constitute one of the most interesting objects in an African landscape. This beautiful tree was now loaded with fruit ; which hung down between the branches in prodigious clusters of from fifty to one hundred pounds' weight. Of these dates, some were small and of a dark yellow ; others red, and others nearly black. The stem of the cluster, as large as a man's arm, and of a tawny yellow colour, comes out between the branches on every side, and scarcely seems equal to the great weight which it has to support. The yellow dates are by far the smallest kind, and the black ones the largest, in Lower Egypt ; but at Es-Souan, on the

confines of Nubia, I found yellow dates nearly three inches in length, though I was told that only one tree bearing such fruit existed in Egypt. Nothing in the vegetable creation can be more beautiful than an enormous date palm, one hundred feet in height, loaded with ripening fruit ; such as we find them on the plains of Memphis. I say ripening, because, as soon as ripe, each date is gathered, to make room for the rest, and lest it should fall and perish. Even the creaking sounds of the water-wheels, as the blind-fold oxen went round and round, and of the tiny cascades splashing from the string of earthen pots into the trough, which received and distributed the water to the wooden canals, arranged for conveying it over the grounds, were not disagreeable to my ears ; since they called up before the imagination the primitive ages of mankind, the rude contrivances of the early kings of Egypt for the advancement of agriculture, which have undergone little change or improvement up to the present hour.

Saturday, Nov. 10.

V. As almost every thing at Alexandria which can be regarded as a relic of past ages lies beyond the inner wall, it is customary with travellers to divide the environs into a certain number of parts, all of which they visit in succession. But the place is now interesting merely as a site. Power, and art, and beauty, and learning have, we know, been there ; but for this knowledge we are almost wholly indebted

to history. Still, while musing among its scanty fragments and choked and broken cisterns, we experience that melancholy satisfaction which every relic of a great people, now passed away, irresistibly inspires. Riding out with a young Egyptian lady towards the Rosetta or Canopic suburbs, we passed those overthrown columns and vast substructions, which, according to M. Champollion, mark the position of the famous Alexandrian library ; and, having passed the gate, entered on a country wild and barren, but exceedingly interesting to the imagination, where long trains of camels, laden with water or with wood, and mounted or followed by Arabs, were toiling across the sands towards the city. The march of these tall, spare, uncouth animals, with heads erect, is singularly majestic : beautiful they undoubtedly are not ; but here, on the borders of the wilderness, neither the ass nor the horse appears so entirely in harmony with the scene. On each side of the road, which is merely a broad pathway worn in the soil by the feet of animals, large mounds of sand, thrown up by the action of the winds, or by the hands of man, diversify the aspect of the plain, whose undulating surface reminded me of the sea, from which I had just escaped. In the distance, towards Rosetta, a long dark line of verdure, like a cloud, marked the site of extensive date groves ; and near at hand were various plantations and gardens, the property of Europeans, which we traversed, and proceeded to the banks of the Mahmoodiyah, or

great canal of Alexandria, where we saw numerous large boats bringing merchandise from Cairo, and towed along by men, as barges are by horses in England. In the course of our ride we passed the elegant palace and gardens of Moharram Bey, and returned by Pompey's Pillar to the city.

Sunday, Nov. 11.

VI. There is a Protestant chapel at Alexandria, which I found but scantily attended. In the afternoon I paid a visit to Mr. Wallace, the Pasha's principal engineer, whose house, situated near the Latin convent, is said to be a kind of grave, almost every individual who has taken it having fallen a victim, as is supposed, to malaria. Date groves *, in

* Most of the villas erected on the site of the ancient city are in the same predicament; but the date trees are evidently not the cause. All this part of the suburbs of the modern Alexandria is built over the cisterns which of old supplied the inhabitants with water; and as many of these are now choked up and unknown, the water stagnating in them corrupts the air, and the damp rising from below penetrates even through the stone floors, generating a fever from which few recover. The modern town, occupying no portion of the ancient site, and possessing no old cisterns, is free from this evil. Hirtius, in his *History of the Alexandrian War*, has given an excellent account of these excavations:—"Alexandria est fere tota suffossa; specusque habet ad Nilum pertinentes, quibus aqua in privatas domos inducitur, quæ paulatim spatio temporis liquescit ac subsidit. Hac uti domini ædificiorum atque eorum familia consueverunt: nam quæ flumine Nilo fertur, adeo est limosa atque turbida, ut multos variasque morbos efficiat: sed ea plebs ac multitudo contenta est necessario, quod fons urbe tota nullus est."—*De Bell. Alexand.* c. 5. Water-drinkers still regard the water brought by the canal to Alexandria as unwholesome, until the earthy particles held in solution have subsided; and even then, it is somewhat brackish; so that those persons who desire a pure beverage have their water brought from Rosetta in casks.

the midst of one of which the house stands, are thought at Alexandria to be highly insalubrious, being covered, morning and evening, it is said, with a dense cloud of vapour, which they nourish and maintain perpetually. This may possibly be the case near the sea, where the air is moist and heavy, but it would seem to be otherwise up the country ; since, both in Upper and Lower Egypt, all the towns and villages are surrounded by palm groves ; yet the people, though short-lived, are not unhealthy, or particularly liable to intermittent fevers or to typhus. I should, in fact, consider a wood of date palms to be the least unhealthy of all groves, the trees being planted at regular distances, forming vast avenues, as of columns, between which, from the absence of all boughs, excepting at the top, the air circulates freely. Here I observed, for the first time, the Egyptian system of irrigation, which comprehends three different methods. When the surface of the river is about four or six feet below the ground to be irrigated, the lever and basket and the Persian wheel are used ; the former worked by men, the latter by cattle. But as the waters decrease, and greater power is required to bring up equal quantities in like times, they make use of the common mechanical contrivance called a *sakia*, in principle the result of the experience of ages ; but generally so defective in construction, that much water or labour is lost. Four Persian wheels, each turned by two oxen, are able, in twenty-four hours, when the water is four feet

below the surface of the ground, to raise sufficient water for the ordinary purpose of irrigating one thousand five hundred fedans * of land. Windmills for raising water, and chain pumps, have been introduced into Egypt; but as these are machines which require some regard to the principles of good workmanship, they are by no means fitted for general use. Once up, they are certainly of great advantage so long as they require no repairs; but when they go wrong, the Arab is unable to put them to rights. For the service of a *sakia*, there are required, in general, eight good oxen†, the feeding of which, with the wages of the persons who attend upon them, amounts to about thirty piastres per day. One man commonly attends upon several *sakias*; so that in a farm where thirty or forty oxen are employed in the business of irrigation, four or five men would suffice. The oxen or cows are driven by boys or women. If, however, the government, with a due regard to its own interests and the happiness of the people, should ever entertain the ambition of acquiring an accession of territory at home, and would make the requisite outlay in repairing and enlarging the existing canals, and forming new ones, sufficient water might be retained in them, after the inundation, for the service of the whole year, without the labour of a single ox.

* A fedan is an acre and one eighth.

† The price of a common ox is about 700 piastres, or 7*l.* 15*s.*; that of a superior one about 1000 piastres, or 11*l.* The present value of the piastre is something short of three-pence sterling.

The construction of the necessary sluices would be the principal expense; for there is perhaps no country in the world where a canal may be dug so cheaply as in Egypt. Mr. Wallace has seen in the Said a canal six miles in length, and of that great breadth and depth which are so peculiar to the canals of this country, the whole expense of forming which did not exceed 1400 ardebs of wheat, at thirty piastres the ardeb. The labourers employed in such works have no tools, no wheelbarrows, none of the aids derived from mechanics in Europe. All over Egypt, from Rosetta to Es-Souan, there are officers appointed by government to inspect the state of the canals, dikes, embankments, and the general face of the country after each inundation; and it is their business to report the nature and amount of the damage done by the river, with the ways and means of repairing them, to the mamours of the provinces, who, in their turn, lay the matter before the Pasha; for every thing comes before him. But these district engineers are all miserable Arabs, extremely ignorant in every branch of their profession, so that no good can possibly originate from them, as is but too clearly proved by the general appearance of the country; vast tracts of which — a fifth, perhaps, of the whole — have been, by their neglect, allowed to lie uncultivated, and gradually to become a prey to, and mingle with, the desert. The nature of the soil of Egypt seems to be better adapted for the purposes of irrigation than that of

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any other country ; for the particles composing the general mass of alluvial matter are so fine, so close, so compact, that little or no loss is experienced from infiltration by water running along its surface. Thus we see the water raised by a sakia on the banks of the Nile sent in a small stream to the distance of several miles, with no apparent loss from infiltration. The surface of the ground to be irrigated is laid out in small oblong squares, divided from each other by diminutive ridges of earth. Those nearest the water-course are of necessity first overflowed, the quantity of water being according to the season of the year and the nature of the cultivation ; and when those have been allowed a sufficient time for imbibing the requisite moisture, the water is turned successively into all the others, the tiny bank of separation being broken down by the foot.*

Monday, Nov. 12.

VII. The greater part of this day was spent in examining a collection of small Egyptian idols, scarabæi, and bronze Ptolemaic medals, possessed by Mr. Harris, a merchant of Alexandria, who unites with his commercial pursuits an enlightened taste for

* From a passage in the Pentateuch we discover that this is precisely the practice which prevailed of old. "The land, whither thou goest in to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed, and *wateredst it with thy foot*, as a garden of herbs : but the land whither ye go to possess it is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven." — *Deut.* xi, 10, 11.

literature and antiquities. As the greater number of these antiques are articles of rare occurrence, and some of them, perhaps, unique, a concise description of the more remarkable may not be thought altogether uninteresting : — 1. Twenty-two scarabæi, of which several are of marble. One of these, of a fine-grained greenstone, is very exquisitely sculptured ; the wings, closed upon the back, and the legs, which nearly meet in front, being wrought with singular minuteness and delicacy. The bottom or slab upon which the beetle rests is charged with hieroglyphics, of equally excellent workmanship ; and the whole was originally covered with gold leaf, of which several pieces of considerable thickness still adhere to the side. Another scarabæus, of a kind of black ironstone, polished like a mirror, had been broken, and repaired, by the Egyptians themselves, with a resinous sort of cement, which holds together, with great tenacity, the broken pieces of the stone. Several of the scarabæi are of what, in the East, is called root of emerald, or coarse emerald ; others of a beautiful green jasper. In these diminutive objects of their worship, the Egyptians exhibited the same passion for allegorical representation discoverable in the paintings and intaglios of a mythological character which cover the walls of their temples and palaces : upon the body of one of the scarabæi is sculptured the head of a woman ; another, from the ruins of Thebes, is fashioned like a jar, and has the beetle sculptured on one side ; a third, from Memphis, is adorned with the figure of the phoenix,

and of a monstrous bird with a human head (supposed to typify the soul), turned face to face. 2. A thick heavy gold ring containing a small stone of three colours, black, white, and amber, upon which the same bird is engraved, surmounting the symbol of life. Many of these scarabæi are bored, and would seem to have been worn as amulets. They are generally found within the wrapper on the breast of the mummies. 3. On a small oblong stone, worn as an amulet or charm, the yoni-lingam, or symbol of life, is sculptured beside a temple ; with a wavy line above, upon which stands the ichneumon, which nowhere else, I believe, occurs as a hieroglyphic. 4. A lady's cornelian necklace, having numerous gold ornaments intermingled with the beads. 5. Another necklace, with two frogs and two lotus flowers, cut in cornelian. 6. A gold ornament, attached to a necklace, representing a woman in a very wanton and extraordinary attitude.* 7. A serpent's head in cornelian, worn at the neck. 8. Various figures of gods, in lapis lazuli. 9. A scarabæus, having, on the obverse, the representation of a human sacrifice in honour of the god Phthah : the victim is on his knees, and the

* We find, among the objects of religious worship of the neighbouring nations, representations equally scandalous. " Il y avait à Majuma, port de Gaza en Palestine, une statue de marbre de Vénus, nue, *quæ habebat aperta sua pudenda*, comme dit Marc Diacre in *Vitâ Sancti Porphyrii Gazensis*. Les habitans de Majuma avaient pour elle la plus grande vénération, et principalement les femmes, qui brûlaient de l'encens et allumaient des lampes en son honneur." — *Larcher, Mémoire sur Vénus*, p. 24, 25. — *Hospin de Orig. Fest. Ethn.* p. 160.

sacrificer, who holds him by the hair with his right hand, has the sword or sacrificial knife in the left.

10. Articles of a lady's toilette : a vessel of alabaster, supported by the figure of a monkey, with stopper of the same material, for holding the *surmeh*, or collyrium for the eyes. A small fictile vase, nearly as hard and heavy as stone, supposed, from the hieroglyphics on the outside, to have belonged to a queen of Egypt : it has the name of the owner, together with that of some god, on its exterior ; and was probably used for containing collyrium or essence. A small fictile bottle, in the form of a column, with wavy ornaments in bright blue, yellow, and white, with a very fine glossy varnish : blue on the inside. A small flattish round bottle of alabaster, with slender handles, of very elegant form. A very neat little wooden vessel, in the form of a duck, with a cover turning on a pivot, the handle consisting of the duck's neck and head : it was once neatly inlaid ; and contains a small pencil for inserting the *surmeh* beneath the eyelids : the whole of sycamore.

11. A small head in terra-cotta, with the mouth open ; the tongue hanging out, and all the features distorted by passion, like the tragic masks of the Greeks : executed with much spirit and delicacy.

12. A long pin for the hair, set with precious stones, in shape resembling those which are worn by the peasant girls of Northern Italy.

13. Head of a sphynx in bronze. The head, neck, breast, and paws of this small figure are in perfect preservation ; but the body, which was not of one

piece with the head, has been lost. The head-dress, which considerably resembles a nun's hood, is surmounted by a complete Christian cross; an exact counterpart of those wooden crosses which, in Catholic countries, are placed over church-doors: from which it may be inferred that it is a production of those ages when Christianity was as yet mingled with paganism, and their symbols mixed up and confounded in the same monuments. The conception and workmanship are inferior; and it has nothing Egyptian about it but the form. 14. Various bronze figures of Theban and Memphian gods. 15. Figure of Nephthys, the least intelligible of all the divinities of Egypt, in terra-cotta; with the head of the hippopotamus, the hanging paps of the sow, and the legs and feet of some other animal. This strange figure occurs on the walls of the smaller temple of Koom Ombos, sometimes with the head of a crocodile; in other cases, as here; and in others, again, with the head of some other fierce animal. She is regarded as the *sakti*, or energy, of Typhon. 16. A very singular kind of figure, of a woman, in dark brown wood, headless, and with a serpent springing forth from the neck, instead of a head, having the hands held up, grasping the snake. 17. Figure of Osiris, in bronze, holding the crosier and flagellum with both hands: an elegant specimen of Egyptian art, which, except that the lips are somewhat too thick, might have passed for the workmanship and effigies of a Greek; the forehead, which is partly concealed

by the mitre, being lofty, the nose regularly formed, the cheeks full, and the lower part of the face rounder than is usual in Egyptian statues. The beard is gathered together in the usual way, and falls down upon the breast; the ears are rather too large, and appear beneath the mitre, in front of which is the Uræus, or cobra di capello, rearing the fore part of the body, and projecting the head in a menacing attitude. 18. Figure of Isis in bronze: the goddess is here represented, as in the temples of Upper Egypt, with the infant Horus on her lap, having her right hand pressed upon the left breast; and bearing upon her head her characteristic mitre, the spreading horns of the cow, with the globe of the moon between them. 19. Figure of Harpocrates, with his forefinger placed upon his lips; on the right side of the head is an immense lock of hair, such as is found on the mummies, and on the heads of several Oriental nations, though not in Egypt. 20. Figure of Apis* (the bull god) in bronze. That which renders this small statue extremely remarkable, is a silver triangle, with the base upwards, on the forehead; undoubtedly representing the yoni of the Hindoos, and connected with the worship of Athor. A vulture, the symbol of Isis, is represented on the back, and between the horns is a figure of the sun, with the Uræus or Agathodæmon projecting from the disc.

* Thus described by Herodotus:—"The skin is black; but on its forehead is a white star of a triangular form. It has the figure of an eagle on the back, the tail is divided, and under the tongue it has an insect like a beetle."—*Thalia*, 28.

CHAPTER II.

THE SHOONAH—LAKE MAREOTIS—FIELD OF THE TWENTY-FIRST OF MARCH—TOLERATION OF FOREIGN COSTUME—THE BAZARS—A DIALOGUE—POMPEY'S PILLAR—HISTORICAL RECOLLECTIONS—CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLES—REMOVAL OF ANTIQUITIES—VISIT TO THE CATACOMBS—DESERT OF LIBYA—MILITARY SLAVES—ENTRANCE TO THE HYPOGEUM—ANCIENT OPENING—REMARKS ON THE HYPOGEA OF EGYPT—CLEOPATRA'S BATHS—VISIT TO A SHEIKH—AN ARAB SCHOOL—ANECDOTE OF SHEIKH IBRAHIM—SLAVE MARKET—GARDENS OF IBRAHIM PASHA.

Tuesday, Nov. 13.

VIII. WE this morning rode out towards the Necropolis ; and, on the way, visited the *Shoonah*, or great warehouse of the Pasha ; in which all the produce of Egypt, not actually consumed in the country, is piled up until it can be shipped. It is an immense stone building, with a flat roof supported by numerous long rows of square columns of very large dimensions. Here we saw prodigious quantities of beans, pease, vetches, &c. brought down from the upper country ; and a great number of Arabs cleansing and preparing them for exportation. From the Shoonah we proceeded to the commencement of the Necropolis ; from one of the high mounds of which we had a fine view, on one side, of the port, shipping, palace, &c. ; and, on the other, of a large portion of

Lake Mareotis, dotted with small islands, and bounded towards the north-west by a long ridge of sand-hills, forming a kind of barrier between it and the sea. The few catacombs which we saw were merely small apertures cut in the rock, a sort of sandstone, in this part composing the substratum on which the sand and soil rest ; extremely soft, and easily broken ; and, where exposed to the action of the air, fretted and honey-combed, like the rocks on the sea-shore. We thence returned, by the Mahmoodiyah, towards the city walls ; on the outside of and parallel with which, one of the great streets of ancient Alexandria, described by Strabo, appears to have run. No traces of it, however, now remain : but, having passed Pompey's Pillar, we came in a few minutes to a long line of cisterns, running from the present city to the Mareotic Lake, seeming clearly to mark the course of the other great street which crossed the former at right angles. A little beyond, and almost parallel with this line of cisterns, is a branch of the great canal, which we traversed by a small bridge ; and, proceeding eastward from the Canopic Gate, between immense mounds of ruins, broken pottery, sand, &c., arrived at an eminence commanding a prospect of the whole sweep of the new harbour, from the Pharos to the Pharillon, with a large portion of the shore beyond, towards Rosetta. At a little distance to the east was the battle-field of the Twenty-first of March ; with that vast square inclosure, called the Castle of the Cæsars, which, on that me-

morable day, was so frequently and so fiercely contested by the English and French armies. At present, the traveller, who wanders over it in search of relics of military glory, finding neither cannon-balls nor entire skulls, is constrained to content his learned curiosity with some equivocal mouldering bone, or with one or two regimental buttons: and, still further to extinguish the spirit of romance within him, the young Bedouin girls, who offer these relics for sale, are neither very pretty nor very clean; and, if he be so inclined, — as Elwes-minded travellers sometimes are, — will wrangle with him half a day for a *para*.* In returning from this excursion to the city, I looked in vain for those beautiful upright columns which, according to former travellers, marked the line of the ancient street leading to the Canopic Gate. But, to make amends for this disappointment, we discovered, at every step, extensive substructions in brick or stone, uncovered by the Pasha's workmen; whose trophies, consisting of fragments of capitals, shafts, friezes, and entablatures, are piled up near the inner walls. It is among the heaps thrown up by these excavators that, after heavy rains, the poor Arabs, by scraping with their hands, discover medals and other small antiquities.

Wednesday, Nov. 14.

IX. Volney has with great judgment and vivacity recapitulated the characteristic features of Alexandria;

* The fortieth part of three-pence.

and his description was this day very forcibly brought to my mind by the sight of its motley population huddled together in fantastic groups in the bazārs and public places. But both the city and its inhabitants are now much less oriental in their appearance than formerly. The constant intercourse kept up with Europeans, who at present constitute a large proportion of the population, the almost general abandonment of the turban, the absence of national articles of manufacture in the bazārs, and, more than all, the complete personal security which the traveller feels, greatly diminish the romantic interest which, under other circumstances, an Eastern city seems calculated to inspire. But the daily passage of strangers from all countries, in every variety of costume, has produced one exceedingly beneficial effect on the manners of the Egyptians : no description of raiment, however strange or extravagant, excites their curiosity ; the half-naked negro from Darfoor, the muslin-clad Hindoo, the pompous Persian, the gorgeous Greek, and the plain Englishman, — all passing unheeded through the streets of Alexandria and Cairo, where the most clownish Fellah, the most impertinent slave, the silliest barber, is never betrayed into an offensive laugh or stare at the stranger. Every variety of costume is tolerated ; and this single circumstance is more honourable to the Arab character than fifty victories obtained over the Turks ; since it evinces a susceptibility of improvement, a flexibility of temper, and a degree of self-command (for they

are naturally curious), which belong only to the most gifted and ingenuous natures.

X. Few of the "sights" of Alexandria seemed more amusing than the bazārs, which afforded me an opportunity of observing the economy of oriental shopkeepers. The buildings which in England go under the name of bazārs in no respect resemble those of the East, which consist of a number of narrow streets covered above, generally crossing each other at right angles, and having on each side shops open in front, like the booths in a country fair, with floors, raised about three feet and a half above the level of the pavement, projecting about a yard beyond the wall of the house into the street, and forming a broad bench, which, joining with that of the next shop, extends the whole length of the bazār. Both the bench and floor of the shop are covered with neat mats or carpets, and the walls with deep shelves, divided into large compartments, in which the various kinds of merchandise are arranged, with little attention to display. The shopkeeper, with a nargeel or chibooque in his mouth, sits cross-legged on the bench in front of the shop. When a customer presents himself, he lays aside his pipe, receives him with a smile and a bow, but continues sitting. The salām is given and returned. A sort of conversation, not at all regarding the matter in hand, is then set on foot: "In the name of God, is your house well?" (when the parties are nearly of the same rank),

“ *Kater khe roubené!* (Thank God! it is well.)”
And your house?” “The same.” “*Fih sakkar?*
(Have you any sugar?)” “*Mafish* (There is none).”
“*Wallah! mafish?* (By God! Have you none?)”
“*Wallah!* (By God!)” The customer then in-
quires, perhaps, for some other article; the shop-
keeper treats him with a whiff from his pipe; they
smoke and talk together for an hour, after which the
buyer strolls on to some other shop. In these narrow
and crowded passages, while prying into the mystery
of buying and selling, the safety of your head is fre-
quently endangered by the passage of a string of
loaded camels, which go shuffling along with burdens
of grass, or vast panniers, reaching nearly across the
street. The appearance and arrangement of the
shops often recal to one’s mind the descriptions in
the “*Arabian Nights*.” Here the barber, the draper,
the money-changer, the jeweller, and even the school-
master, exercise their various arts and mysteries in
the view of the public, and all, to judge from their
appearance, conduct their business with a dignity and
self-satisfaction, which must contribute greatly to their
general happiness.

Thursday, Nov. 15.

XI. I this day rode out to examine Pompey’s
Pillar. The appearance, dimensions, and history of
this famous column have so frequently engaged the
attention and excited the controversial propensities
of travellers, that nothing new can now be advanced

concerning it ; but it may be worth remarking, that monuments which, from the frequent mention made of them, seem hackneyed and common-place in books, by no means appear so when actually beheld. You for the time forget the dissertations of the antiquarian, the measurements of the mathematician, the spruce trim copy of the artist, and yield up your mind to the romantic enthusiasm inspired by grand historical associations. It is doubtless important that we should not attribute to one man the great public works bequeathed to mankind by another, whether those works were designed for use or ornament ; but there is a pleasure altogether independent of antiquarian erudition derived from the contemplation of the monuments of past ages, vague, shadowy, composed of many mingled sentiments and feelings, but sweet to the mind, and perhaps the only adequate compensation which the traveller can ever receive for his toils and privations. While gazing on this vast lonely column, the names of Leo Africanus, Pietro della Valle, Pococke, Shaw, Bruce, Volney, and Denon, all men of immortal reputation, who had once mused on the spot where I then stood, came crowding upon my memory. I thought, too, of what Alexandria was when that pillar was erected ; of the temples, the theatres, the gardens, which once delighted the eye from that barren eminence, but all now vanished like a dream. From a neighbouring mound, which, during the campaign of Egypt, was carried by our countrymen at the point of the bayonet, we enjoyed a

splendid prospect over the vast surface of the Mareotic Lake, with its rushy diminutive isles, the new plantations and vineyards on its shores, and the immense canal stretching along its southern extremity, and carrying the eye across the desert towards the Nile; to the north were the sea, the port, the city, surrounded by a thousand mounds of rubbish; to the west, was the site of the Hippodrome.

XII. From Pompey's Pillar, near which we descended into the vaulted passages of an extensive ancient edifice, the lower part of which seems still to exist beneath the sand, we proceeded over innumerable heaps of ruins, to Cleopatra's Needles, those two beautiful obelisks of rose granite, which are supposed to have adorned the entrance to the palace of the *Ægyptio-Macedonian* kings. Of these, the one towards the east is still standing; the other has been overthrown, probably by an earthquake, and lies partly buried in the sand.* The English are said to have once entertained the design of carrying away this obelisk to England, but to have been deterred by a calculation of the cost. Upon this kind of spoliation it should be remarked, that, where such remnants

* This was my first idea; but I afterwards learned that it had been thrown down by Chiandi, an Italian engineer, in the service of the Pasha. The pedestal having been blown up with gunpowder, the fragments were used in building a fort close at hand. In the same manner the obelisk itself was to have been disposed of; but this fine monument of antiquity was saved, for the time, by the interference of the English consul, the obelisk being the property of Great Britain.

of ancient art are safe in the countries where they are found, it is something worse than vandalism to remove them; but where, as in Egypt, the most extraordinary monuments of antiquity are daily liable to be converted into materials for building cotton mills or other factories, as we see in the case of the temple of Dendera, the False Pyramid, and the superb portico of Ashmounein, it seems excusable to endeavour, by conveying them to some more civilised land, to rescue such relics from destruction. The hieroglyphics on the eastern face of the upright obelisk are nearly obliterated by the action of the prevailing wind. Denon, who, though fanciful and not unprejudiced, was yet an acute observer, seems certainly to have been mistaken in attributing the idea of fixing obelisks on pedestals to the Europeans; for, whether these obelisks were so placed, or sprung directly out of the pavement, like the Doric columns of Girgenti, we undoubtedly find similar monuments in the Island of Philæ, erected upon very lofty pedestals; and I was assured at Alexandria, by gentlemen who had seen the bases of Cleopatra's Needles bared by excavation, that they also rested upon pedestals.

Friday, Nov. 16.

XIII. A large party having been formed for the purpose, we this day visited the celebrated catacombs of Alexandria. We were attended by a janissary, a kawass from the palace, and a number of donkey boys; all such excursions being performed on asses,

and each animal having its separate attendant. It was one of those beautiful winter days which seem to be almost peculiar to Egypt, when the sun's heat is so tempered by the sea breezes that it is rather refreshing than oppressive. The landscape, though divested of all those charms arising in other lands from mountains, running streams, and luxuriant vegetation, was clothed in beauties peculiar to itself, which, whether intrinsically of a picturesque character or not, affected the imagination no less powerfully than the alpine snows and mountain cataracts which I had exchanged for these burning sands. Words can represent but indistinctly the characteristic peculiarities of such a scene. We were treading on the verge of the boundless desert of Libya, that mysterious portion of our globe, the nature and exact extent of which are hitherto unknown, over whose skirts a scanty number of hardy adventurers have passed hastily with fear and trembling, while the simoom, the whirlwind, the sand-storm, and the fierce inhospitable Bedouin hovered around their path. A secret reference to ideas of this kind imparted to the rocky and barren wilderness an aspect of savage grandeur not properly, perhaps, belonging to it ; though the drifted sand heaps, of all forms and dimensions, with the traces of the whirlwind still fresh upon them, the gaping mouths of innumerable sepulchres profaned and rifled of their dead, the rocks fretted to honey-comb by the everlasting action of the waves, the deep, deep blue sea, the

stainless sky, the silence, the solitude, the utter desolation which on all sides met the eye, necessarily produced an impressive effect upon the mind. From time to time, as we looked towards the desert, we discovered a single Bedouin, or a laden camel, moving, afar in the distance, across the plain, which only appeared to render us the more sensible of the sterility and forlorn condition of that unblessed land.

XIV. Having for some time ridden along, contemplating with a novel kind of satisfaction the dreary but striking features of the landscape, we arrived at the fort erected by the Pasha in the midst of the ancient Necropolis. Here we saw a number of black military slaves, in the new uniform, drawn up in platoons upon the sand, going regularly through their exercises, under the direction of a Turkish officer. On our descending towards the entrance into the fort, a considerable number of Arab soldiers advanced to prevent our passage ; and as I happened to be riding in front of our party, they all crowded round my beast, not rudely or saucily, but with evident good nature, smiling, and seeming to say very civil things in Arabic. They were mostly young men, whose scanty moustachios betrayed the shortness of their service, while the awkward physiognomy and lumbering gait of the peasant still remained beneath the affected primness of look and coxcombical precision of the common soldier. It was in vain that

the kawass dwelt upon his authority, and the verbal permission of the Pasha : they had received positive orders to allow no man to pass that way, and, like Napoleon's corporal, would have obstructed the progress of Mohammed Ali himself, unless otherwise instructed by their *bimbashi* or captain. To this important personage, who was engaged in instructing the black slaves, application was now made ; and as he could, of course, have no motive for disobeying the orders of his Highness, we were at once permitted to proceed.

XV. This impediment removed, we rode leisurely along the rocky shore, among the crumbling remains of the Necropolis ; which have in many places been broken up, and the fragments employed in the erection of the neighbouring forts. At length we arrived at the entrance to the catacombs, which faces the sea, and, during the prevalence of high north winds, must be filled with the spray and foam of the waves. It at present resembles the mouth of a quarry ; but I make no doubt, there were formerly a dromos or court, a portico, a corridor, and all the regular appendages of an Egyptian hypogeum. In the great hall or vestibule we threw aside our *burnooses* or Arab cloaks, and, having lighted our long wax tapers, proceeded with eager curiosity to the examination of the interior chambers. The apartment into which we pass from the vestibule is of vast dimensions, and communicates, on the left, with another chamber,

smaller, and provided with three recesses for coffins. On the right of the great entrance-chamber is another very large saloon, with a circular roof, which, by the illusion of sculpture, seems to spring up into a dome. From this apartment, which has been dignified, I know not wherefore, with the appellation of "state room," numerous passages branch off in different directions, leading through the rock to various other chambers of inferior dimensions. These passages are in many places filled up with earth nearly to the roof, so that you creep along with difficulty; in others, the surface of the sand and rubbish sinks so low as to allow of your standing upright; while, from time to time, you find deep holes, descending, perhaps, to the original floor. There were two suites of chambers; the one running in a southerly, the other in a westerly, direction. Captain Cotton, a highly intelligent and able officer in the Madras army, and myself, pushed on through the latter; and, notwithstanding the intricacy of the passages, the extreme lowness of the roof in some places, and the heat, which very much resembled that of an oven, succeeded in reaching what appeared to be the extremity of the hypogeum towards the west; but in all this long succession of rooms, I saw only one niche for a coffin. When we had arrived at what seemed to be the end of the catacomb, we observed that the rock was jagged and broken, like the sides of a natural cavern; and it is possible that, between these rough projections, some strait passage, not discover-

able by the faint light of our two tapers, may exist, leading still farther westward. On returning towards the entrance, we found some of our party engaged in examining a small opening which seemed to have been recently broken in the rocky partition, and was at first supposed to lead to an upper suite of chambers : but having, with much difficulty, forced in my head and the upper part of my body, I discovered it to be nothing but a diminutive sepulchral cell, from which the mummy and sarcophagus, if it ever contained any, had been removed. Besides this western suite of rooms, there seemed, as I have already observed, to be another, branching off towards the south ; for a low narrow passage, carefully cut in the rock, conducted, we could not doubt, to other apartments ; though our Arab guide assured us gravely that it extended beneath the Desert all the way to Cairo, and asserted that he had crept along through it for several hours, without meeting with a single chamber. Had we followed this opening, we might, perhaps, have arrived in a few minutes at apartments similar to those which we had traversed ; but the heat was oppressive, and our curiosity beginning to be satisfied : for every new chamber seemed exactly to resemble that which had preceded it, so that nothing appeared likely to be gained by pushing our researches any farther. We therefore turned round, and proceeded towards daylight ; while our scattered companions, moving, with candles in their hands, through distant chambers, now appearing and now

disappearing in the dark passages, or behind the angles of the rocks, resembled so many phantoms. Numerous visitors have smoked their names upon the walls ; which, like Pompey's Pillar, are daily more and more disfigured by this vulgar ambition.

XVI. Formerly, travellers used to descend to these catacombs by ladders, the present easy entrance not having been then discovered. Indeed, our guide pointed out to us a hole in the rock above, now choked up with earth and stones, by which they may have effected their descent ; and I have somewhere read an account of two Englishmen, who, having got down into these subterranean abodes, the Bedouins drew up the ladder, and left them to perish of rage and hunger. Here we observed the only bat which we saw in the catacombs ; and, with respect to jackals, which Dr. Richardson took so much pains to scare away with muskets and bugle-horns before he would venture to enter, no man, I believe, could ever succeed in catching a glimpse of them in any hypogeum in Egypt ; for they are naturally timid, and, I should imagine, not more dangerous than so many hares. The present entrance would appear to have been but lately discovered ; though, from an opening in the rocks, which seems to have been formed artificially, almost directly opposite, for the purpose of admitting boats with the dead bodies, I am strongly inclined to think it must have been the ancient one.

XVII. The opinions of men respecting the architectural merits of works of this kind will very much depend upon their experience. Dr. Clarke, who had never visited the vast excavations of Upper Egypt and Nubia, regarded them as something extremely marvellous ; and even Dr. Richardson, who had been in the upper country, appears to have exaggerated their size and grandeur. But, though inferior in interest and magnitude to many of the hypogea in the southern part of the valley of the Nile, it must still be admitted that they are extraordinary excavations, calculated, by the form, succession, and arrangement of the chambers, to pique the curiosity of the traveller ; and, by the darkness and mystery in which they are shrouded, to give rise in his mind to some vague idea of danger. The globe and crescent, the orb with wings, and the rude paintings formerly visible on the walls, appear to have been obliterated, for they entirely escaped my notice ; nor could I, after the most careful search, discover any sarcophagi, or bones, or smell any mephitic or unwholesome odour. It has been made a question whether these catacombs belonged to the Alexandrian Greeks, or were the work of the ancient Egyptian inhabitants of Rhacotis ; but, although the larger excavations are evidently Greek, the wide extent of the Necropolis contains innumerable sepulchres, of an inferior kind, which undoubtedly appear to have owed their formation to the Egyptians, as they in all respects resemble the sepulchral excavations of Siout, of the

rock beneath the Pyramids, of Benihassan, and many other Egyptian towns. That they were originally quarries, I can by no means believe ; nor could any one, who had properly examined them, entertain such an idea for a moment ; the rock having every where been excavated with an evident regard to architectural arrangement. In many of the catacombs deep wells have been sunk for the mummies ; spacious rooms are succeeded by long corridors, or by low narrow passages, through which no stones of any size could have been conveyed out ; while niches, recesses, mummy-pits, into some of which the sea has found its way, succeed each other in the most intricate manner. In one of these, into which I crept, like a snake, on my belly, I found, by the dim light of my taper, a number of skulls and thigh-bones floating in a low deep trough, in water which had certainly oozed in through the rock from the sea. That the stones produced by hollowing out these hypogea may have been sometimes used in building, is very possible ; but that was not the original intention of the excavators. In the prodigious quarries of Hajjar Silsilis, in those of Siout, and El Massera, whence were drawn the materials of the pyramids, you see clearly that the object was to procure stones ; the chambers, the immense squares, galleries, corridors, and streets being arranged fortuitously, according as the vein of good stone happened to lie : but, at Alexandria, it seems evident that the excavations were planned, and that the architect steadily adhered to his plan, in spite of

all obstacles and impediments. Such, at least, I found to be the opinion suggested by an attentive consideration of the question on the spot, and by all those comparisons which I was afterwards enabled to institute between the Alexandrian catacombs and the real quarries of Upper Egypt.

XVIII. On coming out into the open air, we found it exceedingly keen and cold ; but nevertheless proceeded to examine what are vulgarly called Cleopatra's Baths, consisting of three contiguous chambers, hewn in the rock, on the western side of a large artificial basin, into which the sea enters by a narrow opening. They are somewhat difficult of access, unless approached through the water, which is beautifully clear, and by no means deep. A low divan, cut in the rock, runs round these chambers ; the largest of which may be about ten or twelve feet long, and eight or ten broad. Two of them are lighted from without, but the third is quite dark ; and the noise produced within by the roaring of the dashing and rebounding waves is loud, and almost incessant. They have been excavated with considerable care ; and though it would be difficult to believe that the voluptuous and beautiful wife of Ptolemy Dionysius ever bathed in these rocky sequestered chambers, they may have contained no less beautiful forms, when they had been rendered cold and rigid by death. In fact, from their situation and vicinity to the tombs, it is probable that they were appro-

priated to the washing of dead bodies previous to their being embalmed. Behind them, likewise cut in the rock, are two other apartments, warm and dry, where all the subsequent process of embalming may have been performed.

XIX. From the baths we proceeded to search for another catacomb, which, from some vague indications in the French description of Egypt, I expected to find a little farther to the west. Having passed the fort, we galloped on along the shore, which is rocky and singularly wild, having the dashing sea on our right, and the almost setting sun shining in our faces. Here and there the ground sounded hollow and cavernous under the feet of our beasts, and convinced us that numerous unopened catacombs still exist in that quarter; but though we extended our ride at least two or three miles beyond the baths, no trace whatever of an entrance to any hypogeum was discoverable. We therefore turned round, and made towards the city; and on the way back met with a numerous party of Arabs, men, women, and boys, returning from Alexandria to their own distant village or encampment in the desert.

Monday, Nov. 19.

XX. Having devoted the two preceding days to the examination of various Egyptian antiquities, and to the selection of such books as I desired to take with me up the Nile, I this day paid a visit to

Sheikh Ibrahim, a popular preacher of Alexandria, equally renowned for his eloquence and fanaticism, whom we found residing in a wing of the principal mosque. He received us very politely, talked a great deal, and, among other things, inquired, with much apparent interest, about Sir Sidney Smith, whom he seemed to have known. He appeared to take a great liking to my beard, which, he was fully persuaded, must be a mark that I belonged to the caste of *mufti*, or priests; nor, though we denied it, did he seem at all convinced, as the Mohammedans, having themselves little respect for truth, imagine that we Christians exactly resemble Ulysses in the accounts which we give of ourselves to strangers. When we seemed to have exhausted the Arabic of our interpreter, the old gentleman undertook to show us the *medressy* (school or college of the mosque) and his own library, supposed to be the richest in Alexandria. In the appearance of the *medressy* there was nothing remarkable, except that, instead of being seated on forms ranged regularly in the centre of the apartment, the boys were all squatted cross-legged upon a mat, with the pedagogue in the midst of them. In Egypt, Nubia, and, I believe, generally in Mohammedan countries, boys are taught to write upon a smooth thin board, about the size of what is called a ciphering slate, with a handle at one end. The characters are made with a whitish sort of clay, and are easily effaced. While studying, or, rather, learning to repeat their lessons, each boy declaims his

portion of the Koran aloud ; and as every one seems desirous of drowning the voices of his companions, the din produced by so many shrill discordant notes reminds one of the “ labourers of Babel.” The library of the mosque consisted of some six or seven hundred manuscripts, carelessly piled upon each other in an awkward kind of bookcase, or strewn in a slovenly way about the floor. Several of those which we examined were beautifully written on fine parchment, and might, perhaps, be valuable. I wished to see a copy of the Koran. The time is past in which such a request could be regarded as imprudent ; but the fanaticism and bigotry of Sheikh Ibrahim were well known, and it was foreseen that he would refuse, or escape from the dilemma by some ingenious evasion. Accordingly, he replied, that he would, at that time, show me the commentators on the sacred text ; but that on some future day, when I should favour him with a second call, he would permit me to view the hallowed volume itself. He was next made to understand that it would give us great pleasure to be allowed to see the interior of the mosque. His excuse was ready : his *wakeel*, or deputy, who was intrusted with the keys of the edifice, was absent, and it was therefore out of his power to oblige us. An order from Mohammed Ali, which few, however, have been able to obtain, would quickly have taught him where to find the keys ; but as it was my intention to gain admission into the great mosques of Cairo, I abstained from

applying to the Pasha. Many curious anecdotes are related at Alexandria of our friend Sheikh Ibrahim, who is a determined enemy of Mohammed Ali and constantly holds up, in his sermons, all his innovations and improvements to public execration. Some years ago, when his Highness's power was less firmly established than it is now, Sheikh Ibrahim contrived to excite a popular commotion, by constantly preaching on a subject equalling in importance the ground of the controversy between the Big-endians and the Little-endians, commemorated by Swift. It would appear that, about the period alluded to, that painstaking people, the Jews, ever intent on turning the penny, had monopolised the butchering trade throughout Alexandria; so that, however grateful it might be to eat mutton chops *, no pious Musulman could enjoy this honest gratification, without the secret drawback of knowing that the animal on whose unfortunate remains he was regaling himself, had been slaughtered by a *Yahoodi* †, with a knife having only three nails in the handle; whereas, it is an acknowledged

* This important information is given in the Cairo Almanac for 1832, p. 45.: — "It is grateful to eat mutton chops." Had the author travelled in England, he would, perhaps, have added, that "beefsteaks, also, are not amiss."

† *Yahoodi*, "Jew." This, among Mohammedans, is the most opprobrious term known. If you offend them slightly, they call you *kelb*, "dog," which is not regarded as particularly insulting. Next to this is *kafir*, "infidel," at which you have some right to be angry; but when the epithets *khanzir*, "pig," and *Yahoodi*, "Jew," are applied to you, no measures need be kept with the aggressor, since, in his opinion, he has exhausted all the worst terms of reproach which language can furnish.

fact that no Mohammedan, who fears God and honours the Prophet, should ever taste of animal food not killed with a knife having *five nails* in the handle, and with the head turned towards Mekka ; a circumstance which it was not to be expected that a misbelieving Yahoody should attend to. Against this enormity Sheikh Ibrahim lifted up his voice ; and so cogent and convincing were his arguments, that the people, trembling on the brink of perdition on account of the sin of the three-nailed knife-handles, and knowing no other mode of putting a stop to it, burst into a furious insurrection. Mohammed Ali, who had all the while been aware of the preacher's declamations, was now constrained to exercise his authority, and the orator was exiled to Tunis ; upon which the people, each fearing a similar or worse fate, were quickly cured of the fever of fanaticism. For some years, Sheikh Ibrahim remained quiet in his place of banishment ; but, bigot as he was, the love of home at length prevailed over his intemperate zeal, and he caused it to be represented to the Pasha that, if his Highness would grant him permission to return, the butchers might slaughter their victims with any sort of knife whatsoever ; nor would he any longer concern himself as to whether, in its last moments, a sheep had its head or its tail towards Mekka. But the Pasha refrained from taking the slightest notice of his application. At length, an English ship of war touching at Tunis, on its way to Egypt, the preacher,

now thoroughly humbled, sued for permission to proceed to Alexandria under the protection of the British flag. His request being readily granted, on his safe arrival, he invited the captain to dine with him at his own house, where our countryman found a numerous party of Turks assembled, and spent a very agreeable day with his grateful host. When the hour of parting arrived, Sheikh Ibrahim led his guest aside, and, taking a large bag of dollars from under his garment, put it into his hands, begging that he would accept it as a token of his gratitude. Surprised, and not displeased, at this proof of good feeling in such a fanatic, the Englishman endeavoured to make him understand that it would be inconsistent with the character of a gentleman to accept of a pecuniary reward for an act of kindness performed through mere humanity; but his arguments were thrown away: the Musulman, ignorant of the refined casuistry of civilised nations, insisted that "one good turn deserved another," observing, that, as Europeans in general appeared to value gold above all things, he was persuaded his money was refused from the belief that he was poor. "If that be your reason," said he, "let it no longer deter you. I am rich; I have bags of gold; you have saved me from pining to death in exile; you have behaved towards me like a brother by the way; I have more money than I need; and *Wallah!* (by God!) you shall share it!" — "You are a fine fel-

low," replied the captain, pushing aside the bag with his hand ; " and it rejoices me exceedingly to think I have been of service to you : but, for your money, I will not touch a piastre of it.—Good night ! ”

XXI. From the mosque of Skeïkh Ibrahim we walked to the slave-market, which was close at hand. The slaves, all young women and girls, were confined in a suite of wretched cells, closed in front with mats, which were thrown aside, like a curtain, when any customer presented himself. Their number, at this time, was exceedingly small ; no caravan from the interior having recently arrived in Lower Egypt. Supposing that we were desirous of becoming purchasers, the *jellabis* commanded the young women, who were all squatting on the ground when we arrived, to get up and exhibit themselves ; which they did without manifesting the slightest indication of disgust or unwillingness, though they were as nearly as might be in a state of nature. Not one was pretty, but there were several whose forms were rich and graceful ; their limbs being finely rounded and tapering, and their skins smooth, shining, and of a warm copper-colour. Some two or three were jet black. The oldest appeared to be about sixteen years of age, the youngest not more than eight. The highest price demanded for any of them was sixty-two dollars.

Tuesday, Nov. 20.

XXII. Though labouring under an attack of fever, to which most persons are liable on their first arrival, I continued my usual excursions, and visited to-day the gardens of Ibrahim Pasha. In riding along, a little beyond the military hospital, we saw a number of his Highness's labourers at work, blasting the rocks with gunpowder, and breaking into some ancient catacombs, which appeared to be of an inferior description. The road, running along the naked shore, was bleak and dreary, and exposed to all the force of the north-west wind; which blew so keen and cold, that our thick Arab cloaks were scarcely sufficient to protect us from its bitterness. The gardens, formerly a mere expanse of sand, are surrounded by a hedge of lofty reeds, which, when full grown, will form an excellent fence, impervious to the sight. The ground is laid out in large square compartments, or beds, somewhat in the French style of gardening; and these are divided from each other by numerous broad walks, bordered on either side with rows of acacias, mimosas, and peach and orange trees. At one extremity of the gardens, near the Sakia, there is a neat kiosk, with a terrace before it, commanding a fine view over the whole breadth of the Mareotic Lake, the canal, and the magnificent expanse of verdure produced by the new plantations which adorn this part of the vicinity of Alexandria. These gardens, it is supposed, are intended to be always left open to the

public. A few small flowers, the last of the year, were blooming near the water-wheel. They were of a brilliant colour, but their odour was faint, barely sufficient to awaken our regret at the absence of the spring. In this neighbourhood were situated the vineyards which produced the Mareotic wine, celebrated, probably through want of experience, by several of the ancients; for, although the soil and climate of Egypt be not altogether hostile to the growth of the vine, there are none of those gentle slopes or hilly terraces in which it delights, and which appear absolutely necessary to bring its fruit to perfection. All the superior wines of Burgundy, I might, perhaps, say of France, are made from hill vineyards; that which is produced on the plain, even close to the foot of the Côte d'Or, being of a watery inferior quality. And this, I imagine, notwithstanding that the richness of the soil is here greatly diminished by the fortunate admixture of sand, must always have been the case with the wines of Egypt.

CHAPTER III.

MOHAMMED ALI'S PALACE — BOGHOS IOUSSOUFF — CONVERSATION WITH THE PASHA — ARMY OF EGYPT — THE MALTA GAZETTE — PROJECTED NEWSPAPER — THE CONSTITUTIONNEL — THE PASHA'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY — THE FORTIFICATIONS OF ALEXANDRIA — THE AUTHOR OBTAINS LEAVE TO ENTER A PART OF THE HAREM, AND SEE THE PASHA'S CHILDREN — AND RECEIVES A LETTER, CONTAINING AN ORDER TO THIS EFFECT, FROM HIS HIGHNESS — PERFORMANCE OF EVENING PRAYER AT THE PALACE — PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF THE PASHA — HIS MODE OF TRANSCENDING BUSINESS — HIS AMUSEMENTS AND MANNERS.

Wednesday, Nov. 21.

XXIII. TRAVELLERS are usually presented to the Pasha immediately after their arrival; but I had put off the ceremony to the last moment, not through want of curiosity to behold so extraordinary a man, but from various accidental causes, of which I could render no account even to myself. On this day, however, late in the afternoon, I rode to the palace, accompanied by Mr. Harris, by whom I was to be introduced; and by the nephew of the American consul, a young gentleman who had been my fellow-passenger from Leghorn; and, on arriving at the entrance, found a number of janissaries and other attendants, in their costly and gorgeous uniforms, lounging about the grand flight of steps which leads to the divan. Having ascended

these stairs, we crossed several spacious halls whose lofty ceilings were painted in a chaste and elegant style, and, making our way through crowds of courtiers of all nations, arrived at the audience-chamber, where we found the Pasha and his minister, Boghos Ioussouff, standing at the extremity of the apartment ready to receive us. As we entered, the Pasha, advancing a few steps to meet us, saluted us in the Turkish manner, repeating the *salām*, or, “peace and welcome,” and placing his right hand upon his heart. When we had returned his Highness’s salutation, our names were pronounced; upon which he took his seat on his lofty crimson divan, and desired me to sit down by his side. On this occasion, he placed himself, as usual, in a corner of the room; where, his whole person being involved in shadow, it was extremely difficult to detect the expression of his countenance, or the uneasy rapid motion of his eye. Boghos Ioussouff, his Highness’s first interpreter, as well as prime minister*, stood, with his arms crossed, before us; the other ministers, courtiers, and officers having all retired to the antechamber, as it was understood that I was to be favoured with a private audience. The conversation was commenced in the ordinary way. “You are welcome,” observed the Pasha; “I am glad to see you in Egypt. Does the country please you? Are you contented? It is my desire that travellers should be quite at their ease, quite at home, in my dominions.”

* He has since been raised to the rank of Bey, or Prince.

“I thank your Highness. Alexandria has interested me exceedingly ; but as yet I am only on the threshold of Egypt. With your permission, I wish to explore the whole country. Travellers appear to move about as safely here as in Europe.”

“Certainly, certainly. Nothing can afford me greater pleasure than extending my protection to strangers. You will run no risk in traversing the whole of my territories. How far do you purpose extending your researches?”

“As far as Dóngola, should I be blest with a favourable wind.”

“Indeed ! Well, you may proceed in safety as far as you please. I understand it is your intention to write a book. Is it so?”

“Your Highness has been rightly informed.”

“In that case, I shall be happy to afford you all kinds of facilities. But do you confine your researches, as is the custom, to ruins and other remains of ancient art?”

“On the contrary, my principal object is to obtain an insight into the character of your Highness’s government, and the present state of the country.”

XXIV. When I had spoken these words, a remarkable change, I thought, took place in his manner. He seemed more polite than before, but was evidently more grave and thoughtful.

“Ah ! then,” he continued, after a brief pause,

“ you do not run about after antiquities ; your object is wholly political.”

“ Not wholly, may it please your Highness ; but having learned from history what Egypt was in old times, I am curious to discover its present resources and military strength ; and on this point I should feel extremely flattered if I could obtain permission to ask your Highness a question.”

“ You have my permission : say on.”

“ Your Highness has doubtless been informed, that a statement of the nature and amount of your forces has appeared in the Malta Gazette. Now, I wish to know from your Highness whether I may depend upon the correctness of that statement ; and, if not, I would then inquire what the real amount may be.”

He now paused for a moment, casting a half-angry, half-scrutinising look, first at me, and then at Mr. Harris. Coffee, also, was at this moment brought in ; and I feared that the conversation, thus interrupted, would not be again resumed. However, in a few minutes he replied : — “ I have not hitherto exactly ascertained the amount of my forces, which are widely scattered about in the various provinces of my dominions ; but, I assure you, the statement of the Malta Gazette is altogether incorrect ; as I may venture to assert, in round numbers, that my army amounts to quite double the number there stated.*

* Eighty-five thousand men. The Pasha did not appear to be acquainted with the author of that statement, who, however, was perfectly well known to me ; as were also the grounds upon which it had been made.

However, as people have begun to calculate my strength, I will, to confound them, cause an exact return of my troops to be made ; and, on your return from the upper country in the spring, you shall be presented with a copy of the official document. At present I cannot give you the precise number ; but, I repeat it, the account in the Malta Gazette is altogether false.”

“ I thank your Highness, and will rely upon your promise. At the same time, I may, perhaps, be permitted to observe, that the sooner this document is placed before the world the better, as the affairs of Egypt now command considerable attention in Europe ; where, in fact, the eyes of all politicians are fixed upon your movements ; and unless contradicted in some distinct and positive manner, it is to be feared that, on this and other points, the assertions of the Malta Gazette, the Moniteur Ottoman, and the Gazette of Smyrna, will be credited.”

He answered, in a somewhat hurried manner, —
“ I have hitherto been accustomed to reply to words with actions : but since the Sultan lays so much stress on words — on the articles of a mere journalist *

* It is confidently believed in Egypt that the Constitutionnel is the property of Mohammed Ali, and people usually speak of it as “the Pasha’s paper.” For myself, I give no credit to the report ; but mention it that the editor of that able paper may have an opportunity of putting forth a formal contradiction ; which, as far as Egypt is concerned, seems absolutely necessary. Perhaps the idea may have been strengthened by the puerile stories which have been circulated in Europe respecting the Pasha’s partiality for that journal, of which he has been said to be a constant reader. Even Count Alexandre de la

— I also will have my newspaper, which shall be published here at Alexandria, in French and Arabic. The editor, a very able man, is already engaged ; and all the steps are taken which can ensure its speedy publication.”

“ No one can doubt that your Highness has acted prudently; for the influence of newspapers is incalculable.”

“ And yet,” he replied, in an altered manner, and as if he repented of what he had said, “ and yet, I am so very indifferent about these matters, that the idea would never have occurred to me, but for my suite, who all counsel me to have a journal. I merely yield to their representations.”

At this, not being quite a courtier, I could not repress a smile, while I observed, — “ Your Highness’s suite, in my opinion, are very judicious persons, and counsel you wisely ; for, after all, the opinion of Europe is of some consequence.”

At this he seemed to start as from a dream ; became fidgety upon his divan ; and, making a slight movement towards me, replied, in the most animated manner, — “ Oh, do not mistake me : I am not indifferent about the judgment which the world may

Borde has contributed, I am told, to the maintenance of this ridiculous error, by observing that “ On peut tout attendre d’un homme qui lit le Constitutionnel ;” though he must have been aware that Mohammed Ali understands no European language. When a journal contains an article which may be supposed to be interesting to him, it is translated into Turkish for his use : but he has too much good sense to confine himself to any particular paper.

form of me ; and of this I will give you a convincing proof. For a long time I have been engaged in composing the history of my own life. During every moment which I can snatch from public business, from the affairs of my people, I am attended by a secretary, whose sole employment it is to write down what I dictate, in my own words ; and to obviate the objections which might be urged against a history of so long a period, composed from recollection, I may remark, that nature has endowed me with a very strong memory. I can describe, as if they occurred yesterday, events which took place forty years ago. In consequence, my biography will be very full. It will contain the history of my youth, before my arrival in Egypt. I shall describe the state of this country when I came into it ; and all the events, of any importance, which happened during my military expeditions in Nubia, Sennaar, Kordofan, the Hejaz, and Syria."

XXV. While delivering this harangue, with great fire and emphasis, he seemed to feel unusual enthusiasm. He sat more upright than before ; his features grew highly animated ; he smiled, and appeared, for the moment, to contemplate with pride the elevation on which fortune had placed him. I observed however, that, in the enumeration of his achievements, no mention was made of the destruction of the Máma-looks. Doubtless, as he ran back over the track of memory, the recollection of that bloody day presented

itself among his brighter reminiscences, like Satan among the sons of God ; and conscience may, moreover, have whispered that his hearers also remembered the event : but pleasurable feeling predominated, and gaiety sparkled in his eyes. Without allowing him time to cool, I continued my inquiries :—
“ And what time does your Highness think it will require to complete the history up to the present time ? I also, perhaps, may desire to give some account of your Highness’s life, and should consider myself fortunate in obtaining access to materials so original and valuable.”

“ Ah, that is very uncertain. The work is long, and my moments of leisure are few. It cannot possibly be finished by the time you return down the river.”

XXVI. I now turned the conversation into another channel. “ Your Highness is not, I am aware, accustomed to grant travellers the permission to visit the fortifications of Alexandria, particularly the Castle of the Pharos, and the battery on the point of Ras-el-Teen ; and, therefore, though extremely desirous of examining them, I scarcely know how to ask such a favour.” At these words he opened his eyes, and darting at Mr. Harris a look, in which the words “ What the devil have you brought here ?” were clearly implied, he bit his lips, and was for a short time silent. He then directed a scrutinising glance at me, and replied, — “ Yes, you may visit

them. You may see them all. I will give orders to that effect. You shall have a *kawass* to-morrow."

"Oh, I thank your Highness! But to-morrow I set out for Cairo. When I return, will be time enough. And now I have another favour to ask: may I be permitted, while at Cairo, to see your Highness's children, and such parts of the harem as a stranger can enter with propriety?"

"There will be no difficulty. And, to ensure your admittance, I will this evening cause a letter, containing my orders, to be written to M. Walmas, which shall be delivered to you before your departure. What time do you leave?"

"At noon."

"Well, the letter shall be sent you in the morning."

XXVII. We now retired; but, from the well-known character of Eastern princes, who promise with facility, without the smallest intention of keeping their word, I entertained little or no hope of receiving the letter. But I wronged him. It came even sooner than it was promised, and contained a sufficiently explicit declaration of his wishes in my behalf.* In an antechamber, through which we

* This letter, written by the prime minister, by order of the Pasha, was never delivered; M. Walmas, the person to whom it was addressed, not being in Cairo when I arrived. Supposing that the gentleman who accidentally accompanied me to the palace was to be my companion on the Nile, which was not the case, he writes, — "J'ai eu l'honneur de les présenter à S. A. le Viceroy, accompagnés par M. Harris, qui m'a procuré le plaisir de leur connaissance; et ayant

passed on leaving the divan, we observed a number of Musulmans at their devotions. It was an interesting sight. Young and old, rich and poor, the officer and the common soldier, setting aside all ideas of rank and distinction in the presence of God, knelt down beside each other on the same mat, and addressed in concert the same prayers to their Maker. They knelt in rows ; their preacher was in front of them ; their faces were, I believe, turned towards Mekka. From time to time, when the preacher pronounced the holy name of God, all bowed down their foreheads to the earth with an air of profound humility ; and, whatever may have been the secret thoughts of their hearts, which He to whom they prayed alone can know, they certainly appeared to be under the influence of faith and piety.

XXVIII. Mohammed Ali is a man of middling stature, robust and stout in his make, exceedingly upright, and, for a man of sixty-five, hale and active. His features, possessing more of the Tartar cast than is usual among European Turks, are plain, if not

témoigné ces messieurs le désir de passer au Caire pour visiter les endroits qui peuvent intéresser leur curiosité, S. A. daigna m'ordonner de les adresser à vous, Monsieur, pour leur être utile et agréable pendant leur séjour dans la capitale, en les accompagnant, ou les faire accompagner dans les lieux qu'ils désireront voir, à la citadelle, dans les fabriques, et ailleurs. Vous pouvez même vous adresser à S. E. Habib Effendi, si il sera nécessaire d'avoir une personne du service pour les accompagner," &c. &c.

" Votre très-humble serviteur,

" BOGHOS IOUSSOUFF."

coarse ; but they are lighted up with so much intelligence, and his dark grey eyes beam so brightly, that I should not be surprised if I found that persons familiar with his countenance thought him handsome. In dress he differs but little, if at all, from any other Turkish gentleman : he has, however, a certain dignity in his manner, which, in the estimation of many, even borders upon majesty. But this dignity seems almost inseparable from the possession of power : the man who can do much good or harm, whatever may be his stature, form, or features, will always appear to exhibit it ; as the scorpion, in size no larger than a snail, is viewed with awe, because he is supposed to carry death in his sting. The manner in which he spends his time is nearly as follows : — He sleeps very little. Europeans who have happened to repose in the same tent with him, while on a journey, complain of having been often disturbed in the night by his asking them questions, and afterwards continuing to talk on when they wished to sleep. He rises at or before daybreak ; and, very shortly afterwards, leaves his harem on horseback, and repairs to his divan for the despatch of business. Here he receives all memorials, petitions, despatches, &c. Shortly after his arrival, the secretaries walk in with large bundles of letters, received since the day before, the contents of which are read to him. He then commands, and sketches out, *vivá voce*, in a rapid manner, the necessary replies. Then the answers to letters and papers, ordered to be made on

the preceding day, are brought in, and read to him by the secretaries ; and when he has heard and approved of their contents, he orders his signet, which he delivers into their hands, to be affixed to them ; while he generally paces up and down the room, turning over the matter in his mind, and probably deliberating whether there shall any postscript be added. This sort of business usually occupies him till about nine o'clock ; at which hour all those consuls, and other persons, who desire a public audience arrive. In an hour or two these individuals take their leave ; upon which he retires to his harem, where he remains until about three or half past three in the afternoon. Even here, however, he is still employed ; and his general orders are, that, if any verbal message be forwarded to him, it is to be delivered to the chief of the eunuchs ; but that, if any letter or note arrive, whether by day or night, he is to be immediately awakened from sleep. Boghos Ioussouff often attends him in the harem for the despatch of important business. At half past three o'clock he again returns to the divan ; where, except that the order of proceeding is reversed, — as he first gives audience, and then enters into the affairs of the interior, — the same round of business takes place as in the morning. About an hour after sunset he takes a slight repast, and remains in the divan until ten or eleven o'clock at night. During these evening hours he generally finds time for a game or two at chess, a person retained for the purpose being always in attendance to play with him ; and this fel-

low, being his Highness's buffoon as well as companion in amusement, always affects to be inconsolable, and makes a sad outcry, when the pieces are taken from him.

XXIX. Both the Pasha and his court are very plain at Alexandria ; but at Cairo, where, however, he spends but a small portion of the year, things are conducted with more state, though he is every where extremely accessible. Any person who has leisure, and knows no better mode of employing it, may go every evening to the palace, whether he have business there or not ; and, if he does not choose to force himself upon the notice of the Pasha, he can enter into any of the other magnificent apartments, which are lighted up as well as the audience chamber, and converse, if he pleases, with some of the numerous company there assembled. To show his Highness's close habits of business, it has been remarked to me, that, when accidentally indisposed at Alexandria, and compelled to take exercise in his carriage instead of on horseback, he is known constantly to take out with him the public despatches. Driving to the banks of the canal, he has his carpet spread upon the ground ; and there, while coffee is preparing, he usually sits, reading and sealing his despatches. He will then enjoy his coffee and pipe, and afterwards return directly to the palace. This is one of his recreations. In the harem, he reads, or has books read to him ; or amuses himself by con-

versing with the abler part of his eunuchs. At other times he is employed in dictating his history ; or in playing at chess, to which, like most other Orientals, he appears to be passionately addicted. In fact, his active restless temper will never suffer him to be unoccupied ; and, when not engaged with graver and more important affairs, he descends even to meddling. Nothing is too minute for him. For example, a young Egyptian Turk, educated in the school of Cairo, now professor of the mathematics, and teacher of the young officers at Alexandria, is compelled every week to give him an exact account of the manner in which each of his pupils pursues his studies. During the period in which he was pushing forward the preparations necessary for putting his fleet to sea, a much smaller portion of the day than usual was devoted to his audiences and ordinary business. Indeed, he would frequently give audience in the arsenal, where he spent a considerable part of his time ; after which he used to step into his elegant little state barge, and cause himself to be rowed out into the harbour, among his ships, to observe the progress of the naval architects and shipwrights, and urge them forward by his presence ; and in these little excursions of business he was sometimes so deeply interested, that he would not return to the palace before twelve o'clock : thus greatly abridging his hours of relaxation. The accidents of the weather never interfere with his resolutions : he will sometimes set out on a journey in the midst of a heavy

shower of rain or a storm, which has more than once caused him very serious illness. His movements are sudden and unexpected : he appears in Cairo or at Alexandria when least looked for, which maintains a certain degree of vigilance among the agents of government ; though something of all this may, perhaps, be set down to caprice or affectation. In the gardens of Shoubra there is a small alcove, where the Pasha, during his brief visits to that palace, will frequently sit, about eleven or twelve o'clock at night, and, dismissing from about him all his courtiers and attendants, remain for an hour or two. From this alcove, two long vistas, between cypress, orange, and citron trees, diverge, and extend the whole length of the grounds ; and in the calm bright nights of the East, by moon or star light, when the air is perfumed by the faint odours of the most delicate flowers, a more delicious or romantic station could hardly be found. In the affairs of the heart, Mohammed Ali is not altogether without delicacy : during the whole lifetime of his wife, an energetic and superior woman, he invariably treated her with the most profound respect, and she always retained a great influence over him. Even since her death he has never married another woman ; though he has not refrained from keeping a number of female slaves in his harem. She lies buried, by her son Toussoun, in a sumptuous tomb near Cairo ; and, when I visited the place, some friendly hand had recently been strewing sweet flowers over their graves.

CHAPTER IV.

MODES OF TRAVELLING TO CAIRO — DEPARTURE FROM ALEXANDRIA — THE MIRAGE — SITE OF CANOPUS — BAY OF ABOUKIR — MOUTH OF THE CANOPIC BRANCH OF THE NILE — THE FERRY — THE CARAVANSERAI — ROUTE ACROSS THE DESERT — DATE GROVES — APPROACH TO ROSETTA — FIRST VIEW OF THE NILE — BEAUTIFUL GARDENS OF ROSETTA — CONVENT OF ABOU-MANDOUR — MAGNIFICENT VIEW OF THE DELTA — FAMINE OF MDCCCXXIX — DEPARTURE FROM ROSETTA — VEGETATION OF THE DESERT — DESERTED MOSQUE — DIMINUTIVE LAKES — PASS OVER INTO THE DELTA — IMMODEST COSTUME OF THE ARAB WOMEN — GREAT FERTILITY OF THE DELTA — ABUNDANCE OF WILD BIRDS — FOUAH — TARBOOSH MANUFACTORY — CURIOUS ARTICLE OF FEMALE DRESS — PICTURESQUE APPEARANCE OF THE COUNTRY — TOMBS OF MUSULMAN SAINTS — DESOOG, A PLACE OF PILGRIMAGE — SITE OF SAIS — INSCRIPTION ON THE STATUE OF NEITH — SAIS PROBABLY FOUNDED BY THE ATHENIANS — COARSENESS OF MANNERS — ROADS AND BRIDGES — THE SHEIKH EL BELED — WINE — SHIBIN-EL-KOM — TATTOOING — CANAL OF TANTA — BERSHAUM — DAMIATTA BRANCH OF THE NILE — LAND OF GOSHEN — KELIOUB — FIRST VIEW OF THE PYRAMIDS — SHOUBRA — CAIRO.

Thursday, Nov. 22. near *Lake Edko*.

XXX. THERE are three modes of travelling from Alexandria to Cairo : by the Mahmoodiyah and the Nile, in boats ; across the desert, on camels ; or by the way of Rosetta and the Delta, on asses. The first of these ways is the easiest ; the last is the most fatiguing and expensive, and by far the longest ; but it is also, without comparison, the most interesting. Several gentlemen, desirous of proceeding to Cairo, agreed to accompany me by this route ; and, having

sent forward our heavy baggage by water, we this day, about one o'clock, left Alexandria, our friends, Captain Cotton, of the Indian army, and Mr. Bartholomew, a missionary, kindly bearing us company for several miles; mounted, like ourselves, on a couple of those swift and sturdy donkeys which constitute the ordinary saddle-animal of both Turks and Christians in Egypt. The character of this route had been represented to me in very false colours. I was told that it would frequently be necessary to dismount, undress, and swim over very broad canals; that we should be impeded in our progress by vast morasses and swamps, in which our animals would sink up to their bellies; that we must often sleep in the open air; and that, in many villages, no kind of food was to be procured for money. As I happened to be labouring at the time under a sharp attack of fever, my selecting this route was characterised as an act of extreme imprudence; as it would undoubtedly have been, had the stories which were related to me been true: but as the narrators of these marvels, who had themselves performed the journey, did not appear to me extremely capable of enduring privations or fatigue, I attributed all their wonderful stories to a desire to enhance their own hardihood, which I afterwards found to be the case.

XXXI. We quitted Alexandria by the Rosetta or Canopic Gate; our road, at first, lying between high mounds of sand and ruins; which, as we advanced, became smaller and fewer, and at length wholly dis-

appeared. We then entered upon the desert, and, for a time, lost sight of every trace of vegetation ; although, in the course of the afternoon, our eyes were once or twice refreshed by the prospect of a few small clusters of date palms ; near which, upon the sand, we saw two or three poor Bedouin tents, whose owners appeared to be absent with their flocks. In the midst of one of these little groves we observed a Mohammedan cenotaph, or headstone, consisting of a low slender pillar of white marble, surmounted by a neatly sculptured turban, beneath which, in very legible characters, was a long Turkish or Arabic inscription. In the sandy waste, close to this spot, where our friends took their leave of us, I for the first time beheld the phenomenon of the mirage, or “ false waters of the desert ; ” which, to many travellers, has appeared to wear the exact semblance of a lake, with a surface unruffled by the slightest breeze. It certainly presented, at a distance, the appearance of water, so as to deceive the eye, and a light delicate vapour seemed to float over its bosom before the wind ; but, when carefully scrutinised, the whole appeared to melt away, and dissolve “ into thin air.” The illusion, however, must have been much less complete than that which has been sometimes beheld in the East ; and, indeed, I afterwards, near Dakke, in Nubia, witnessed a much more perfect phenomenon of this kind.

XXXII. Pursuing our way through the desert, in which the drifting sand was in some places blown

up into heaps ; in others spread out into vast beds, where our animals often sunk a foot deep ; and in others, again, covered with water and reduced to soft mud ; we a little before nightfall arrived opposite the ruins, or rather site, of Canopus. The remains of this dissolute city, erected gradually, according to tradition, around the rude tomb of the pilot of Menelaus*, have long been covered by the waves, which, in this part of the coast, appear to be gaining on the land, against which they are driven with great and continual violence by the north wind. We next passed the village of Aboukir, and shortly afterwards came close up to the edge of the bay, where, in 1798, was fought the famous battle of the Nile. Through the bottom of this bay the sea was turned by the English into Lake Mareotis, when it is said that forty-four villages, with their fields and gardens, were overwhelmed beneath the water, which is now again excluded by a wall, or stone embankment, erected by the Pasha. Latterly, however, the old works were found to be insufficient to resist the fury of the waves, and workmen were now employed in erecting a new line of wall, immediately within the old one. The wind, which blew from the north, was very high, and the sea came roaring and dashing in a tremendous manner on the shore, frequently breaking over the old wall, along the top of which the road now lay. For several miles our course con-

* “ Condidere id Spartani ob sepultum illic rectorem navis Canopum ; qua tempestate Menelaus Græciam repetens, diversum ad mare terramque Libyam dejectus.”—*Tacit. Annal.* ii. 60.

tinued close to the southern extremity of Aboukir bay, where the aspect of the desert, viewed in the dull twilight of a cold cloudy day, was dreary and desolate beyond expression.* This was, in fact, the moment for feeling the full influence of the waste, not a sound being any where heard but the howling of the wind, and the dashing of the waves, mingled at intervals with the melancholy scream of the heron or the stork. We had ourselves ceased to speak; every one seeming to be absorbed in his own thoughts; and these, if I might judge by the complexion of my own, were as gloomy and comfortless as the landscape.

XXXIII. It had been already dark some time when we reached that broad deep channel, formerly, perhaps, the mouth of the Canopic branch of the Nile, by which the sea flows into Lake Edko; and, owing to the lateness of the hour, and the boisterousness of the weather, there at first appeared to be but little likelihood, even if the wind would allow us to make ourselves heard, that the Arab ferrymen would risk their boat, in such a night, by coming to fetch us. We shouted with all our might, but no answering voice, from the opposite shore, gave us the assurance of being heard, and we in vain looked across the dusky waves in search of the boat; while the wind blew more and more fiercely, the cold grew bitterer,

* Some travellers have pretended that the bottom of this bay is lined with groves of date palms; but not a tree was visible when I passed.

and something between rain and dew began to fall. To bivouac unsheltered, on the open plain, or to return to the village of Aboukir, appeared to be our only alternative ; but at length some one advised the firing off of a pistol ; and this means succeeded, for presently afterwards we had the satisfaction of hearing a shout from the water, and in a short time beheld the ferry-boat approaching the shore. The embarking scene, which now took place, was not a little ludicrous. Our baggage, beds, &c. were, of course, easily put on board ; but when it came to the asses, they seemed to have some secret objection to this mode of conveyance, and exhibited so striking a degree of that firmness of purpose for which their race has long been renowned, that it appeared altogether doubtful whether they could be prevailed upon to go over or not. However, the vociferation of the Arabs and the blows, which were most unsparingly dealt upon their cruppers, at length, convinced them that they were likely to have the worst of the argument ; so they yielded up the point ; and when this dispute was over, we were carried on board on the backs of the Arabs, and the boat put off. It was by this time so dark that we could scarcely distinguish one another, and the crazy old *baris* rolled and pitched in an extraordinary manner ; but at length we reached the opposite shore, a bare unsheltered beach, where we found a solitary stone hut, half in ruins, round which all the winds of heaven seemed to be blowing. On entering this wretched tenement, which, in European maps,

is dignified with the appellation of a caravanserai, we found a Turk established in the least uncomfortable corner, where he had spread his carpet, and was smoking his pipe, by the light of a small dim lamp, which was burning beside him on a window seat. It was one of those wild-looking places which writers of romance delight in describing. Situated on the bleak sea beach, almost within reach of the spray, slightly built at first, and now fast crumbling to ruin, with shattered doors, a few rough boards for windows, long fowling-pieces, pistols, sabres, &c. suspended against the wall, and one solitary man, smoking and musing in the partial gloom,—it formed a savage picture, which, under other circumstances, I should have contemplated with pleasure.

XXXIV. The Turk saluted us civilly as we entered, and, in the hope, perhaps, of a small consideration, yielded us up his place, and undertook to assist our Arabs in preparing tea and coffee; and while this operation was going forward, we spread our beds upon the floor, and put every thing in readiness for passing the night. As it blew almost a hurricane, the wind entered in strong gusts through the numerous apertures in the wall, and swept so violently round the room, that it was with much difficulty that either candle or lamp could be kept burning; but having despatched our simple meal, we bade defiance to the winds, and, retiring to bed, every one of the party, except myself, was almost immediately asleep. From various causes I found it quite impossible to

follow their example : fleas, bugs, and other vermin, enumerated among the plagues of Egypt, soon found their way into my bed, and began to initiate me in the mysteries of travelling ; the strong tea and coffee which we had taken, co-operating with the excitement created by an extremely novel situation, had also their share in producing wakefulness ; and there I lay —

“ Chewing the cud of sweet and bitter fancy ; ”

listening to the roaring of the sea and the wind, and ardently wishing for the dawn. About midnight, when the Turk and the muleteers, after much loud talking, had fallen asleep, a party of Bedouins arrived at the hut, demanding, with vociferous shouts, to be admitted out of the rain, which was now falling in torrents. Not being immediately attended to they beat the old door with their lances, and were, I believe, upon the point of sending it in to the middle of the floor, when the Arabs awaked, and admitted them. The dying embers of the fire were now kindled once more into a blaze, and the new comers, crowding round it to dry themselves, contrived, by their noisy conversation, to keep me still longer awake ; but they again departed before day-break, and left us to our repose.

Friday, Nov. 23. *Rosetta.*

XXXV. When we arose in the morning, the rain, which had fallen heavily during the night, had ceased, though the wind still continued very high. We break-

fasted hastily, and set out. The portion of the desert upon which we now entered seemed still more wild and desolate than that which we had traversed on the preceding evening. Our route still lay close along the edge of the sea, where alone the sand was hard enough to support the weight of our beasts, which frequently moved through the waves, from whose crests the wind snatched away the foam, and wafted it over the desert, while our garments were almost drenched by the spray. A few miles beyond the caravanserai, we saw a part of the hull of an English ship, which had recently been cast on shore, and wrecked there; the planks had been nearly all stripped off, and the waves were now running like sluices through the ribs. Various parties of Arabs, some on foot, others mounted, like ourselves, on asses, passed us, in the course of the morning, on their way to Alexandria. Our attendants, consisting of two men and three lads, were exceedingly cheerful and merry, laughing and singing snatches of Arab songs all the way. From time to time we discovered on the right the date groves of Edko, and about ten o'clock the lofty minarets and palm trees of Rosetta became visible; shortly after which a black pillar, about eight or ten feet in height, informed us that we were to strike off from the shore; and similar columns, erected at regular distances, marked the track across the desert, the city itself being discernible at a distance only in very clear days. On the way we came up to a well, furnished with a small metal basin for the use of the traveller. Our attendants, desirous of

keeping all the water for themselves, pretended it was dry, and would have persuaded us not to alight ; but, being thirsty, we thought it best to examine for ourselves, and found that the well contained much more than the whole company needed.

XXXVI. The approach to Rosetta from the desert is singularly striking and agreeable. The imagination, which, for many hours, has been dwelling, though not without pleasure, upon ideas of barrenness, aridity, desolation, feels suddenly an influx of delightful images, arising partly from contrast, partly from the view of luxuriant verdure, exhibiting, in spite of winter, all the glossy freshness of spring. Though the first date palms at which we arrived stood in the midst of dry shifting sands, where it is wonderful that they should find any moisture, they were loaded with noble clusters of ripe fruit, which our donkey-boys thinned, as they went along, with stones and brickbats. It appears to be generally believed that these noble trees naturally spring up with tall columnar trunks, bare of branches to the summit ; but, in fact, this nakedness is the work of man, for the young palm of two or three years' growth is covered with branches from the earth upwards, like a huge flag or water-lily ; and a plantation of them, in this unpruned state, is peculiarly verdant and beautiful. Were the sap, however, allowed to distribute itself through these superfluous branches, the tree would never acquire that towering height which it now reaches, nor would the fruit

attain the size or flavour which it possesses in its cultivated state ; and for this reason the lower branches are annually lopped off, both in the date and doum trees. The city of Rosetta, properly *Rashid*, is surrounded by low walls, and at a short distance wears the appearance of a European town ; but this resemblance vanishes when you enter, though its long streets, lofty brick houses with projecting latticed windows, numerous mosques, and large open spaces, like squares, give it an original and important air, far superior to the Turkish portion of Alexandria. Many of the houses are five stories high, and have several tiers of projecting windows, in the form of small Gothic turrets, with curious open work. The mosques, though all, I believe, built of brick, are spacious and lofty, and adorned with tall slender minarets surrounded by three or four narrow galleries, placed, the one above the other, at various heights. From the size of the place, it must formerly, I imagine, have contained at least thirty thousand inhabitants, which have now dwindled down to about half that number ; its decline being justly attributed to the formation of the Mahmoodiyah, which has almost wholly turned into another channel the trade between Cairo and Alexandria, and is daily enriching Fouah at the expense of Rosetta.

XXXVII. There is at Rosetta an inn, kept by an Italian ; a wretched place, but, being the only one in the town, it is resorted to by almost all European travellers. Here we put up, and, while dinner was

preparing, walked out to view the city and its environs. The first object of my curiosity was the Nile. Having travelled so many thousand miles principally for the purpose of beholding this renowned river, with the land which it has created, I will not pretend to dissemble the delight with which I first saw it, flowing between its rich palm-clad banks towards the sea. Its waters, holding a large quantity of earth in solution, were now of a reddish hue, and presented to the eye a magnificent surface, not less than six hundred yards in breadth ; while the luxuriant vegetation on both its shores seemed to dispute with it the right to command our admiration. Volney, whose imagination appears to have been sick during his stay in Egypt, though he does justice to the environs of Rosetta, disparages the Nile by comparing it with the Seine between Auteuil and Passy ; exactly as Tavernier discovered the Ganges to be very much like the same river opposite the Louvre. Between the city of Rosetta and the river, there is a large open space of ground, where all those boats which drop so far down the stream land their cargoes. Here, likewise, the inhabitants enjoy the air in the cool of the evening ; for, if the Orientals do not walk so much as Europeans, they are no less fond of promenades, where they may lounge at their ease, and build castles in the air. Continuing our ramble along the banks of the stream, we soon reached the celebrated gardens, which chiefly lie to the south of the city, on the way to the convent of Abou-Mandoor. Properly speaking, they are large walled plantations of pomegra-

nate, banana, lemon, citron, and orange trees, intermingled irregularly; luxuriant, unpruned, a verdant wilderness of every variety of tint, with fruit, glowing like spheres of gold, clustering thick among the leaves, weighing down the boughs, and tempting the hand at every turn. Here and there, among this almost matted undergrowth, a palm tree towers aloft, and waves in the wind its graceful feathery branches; while, near it, the Egyptian sycamore, or Pharaoh's fig tree, the growth of a thousand years, stretches forth its vast tortuous boughs, and affords, even when the sun is hottest, a grateful refreshing shade. Were these enclosures a little larger, and their woods of lovely fruit trees separated from each other by open spaces of greensward, they might without impropriety be compared with those paradises of the Persian kings, described by Xenophon; and with this advantage on their side, that no Persian garden ever beheld so majestic a river as that which rolls beneath their walls.

XXXVIII. From the gardens we proceeded along the Nile to the convent of Abou-Mandoor, situated on a sharp promontory projecting into the river; and there turning a little to the right, ascended to an old tower standing on the summit of the highest eminence in the neighbourhood, where Mohammed Ali has lately erected a telegraph. The low hills, which here border the stream on the west, appear to have been formed by the winds of the desert, and are in many places sprinkled with a few hardy plants,

coarse and prickly, but which occasionally serve as pasture for the ass and the camel. The Arab entrusted with the working of the telegraph willingly permitted us to ascend the tower. The weather, though cold, was clear ; and the view which presented itself, interesting and varied in a very high degree. To the south and west, was the desert ; to the north, the sea ; beneath our feet, towards the east, the Nile, with numerous sails moving to and fro upon its broad surface ; and, beyond, the level bright green rice fields, the diminutive lakes and canals, the picturesque villages, and vast forests of the Delta. To all these elements of a charming landscape must be added the transparency of an African atmosphere, the brightness of the sunshine, and, still more, the glory and splendour which prodigious ancient renown has cast over that singular land.

XXXIX. Returning to the city, we visited the deserted rice-mills of the Pasha ; where large sums of money have been squandered upon steam-engines, and a complicated apparatus for cleansing the rice from the husk, which have all proved utterly useless ; as, instead of effecting the intended purpose, they only crush and spoil the grain. A large factory, likewise, erected at great expense, has been for some time abandoned, and is fast going to ruin. The great tannery we found working, under the direction of three or four Europeans, who employ in the works about two hundred Arabs. The *shoonah*, or warehouse, of the Pasha, where prodigious quantities of

red and yellow rice were piled up in heaps, employs a great number of hands. Here, in 1829, the most fearful scenes are said to have taken place, when there was a famine in Egypt, an artificial famine, created by the Pasha's monopoly of grain; and the people, collecting in crowds around the public stores, beheld through the palisades of this same shoonah huge piles of corn spoiling in the open air, while they were perishing of hunger. It has been asserted, but I trust incorrectly, that government refused to sell the grain to the people until it was spoiled, and that it would not even permit them to purchase better corn elsewhere. This famine was equally felt throughout the country. At Cairo, the government first sold a kind of mixture half wheat and half barley; but for the wheat mouldy beans were afterwards substituted; and this continued for about three or four months, during which corn was contraband throughout Egypt. Some wheat was even imported, by private speculators, from Syria; a thing unheard of since the famine of Ismaïn Bey: but a heavy duty put a stop to this promised relief.* From the shoonah we

* These stories, which are current in the country, have been collected and repeated in "Deux Mots sur l'Égypte, &c. par L. Bousquet Deschamps." Smyrna, 1832, p. 12. *note*. But the authority of this writer must be relied on with great caution, since he is a disappointed and angry adventurer. His English translator, whose manuscript was put into my hands at Cairo, corroborates, however, his testimony respecting the causes and horrors of this famine, and I have made use of his words in the text. Nevertheless, Mr. Harris of Alexandria, one of the first merchants in Egypt, a man of honour and veracity, and who was in the country during the whole continuance of the scarcity, authorises me most positively to contradict, in his name,

returned to our inn, where our party was shortly afterwards joined by the Reverend Vere Monro, who had just arrived across the desert. We had been introduced to each other at Alexandria: he was now the bearer of a letter to me from our excellent Consul-general, Mr. Barker; and he became from this moment the constant companion of my travels, which were rendered at once more profitable and agreeable by his society.

Saturday, Nov. 24. *Fouah.*

XL. We left Rosetta about eight o'clock in the morning, and, shortly afterwards, struck off into the desert, which, immediately south of the mosque of Abou-Mandoor, comes down close to the water's edge. Very heavy rain having fallen during the two preceding nights, the blades of a fine tender grass were, this morning, quite thick among the loose sands, giving their wavy surface an appearance of verdure; which convinces me that water only is wanting to render even the desert fertile. Here and there several small groves of date palms enlivened the waste, which,

the reports of persons having perished of starvation on this occasion at Rosetta, or elsewhere. It should also be remarked that the Pasha, whose monopoly is said to have caused the famine, never exported, while it lasted, a single ardeb of grain, except to Candia, a part of his own dominions; and that, notwithstanding the assertion of the writer above cited, wheat *was* sometimes imported from Syria for the use of the people, though the importation of flour from Europe was not generally permitted. In some instances, however, the Pasha was induced, by the representations of Boghos Iousouff, to allow small quantities of flour to be brought from Malta, for the use of Europeans, to whom the bread made of beans and mouldy flour was intolerable.

ascending and descending in strongly marked undulations, wore a very striking aspect. In a short time, diverging a little to the left, we come down to the bank of the river, directly opposite the great bend which it here makes towards the east, and, on turning round, enjoyed a noble prospect of the convent of Abou-Mandoor, with its elegant dome and minaret, embosomed in palm trees ; and, beyond this, the city and orange groves of Rosetta, beautified by distance. The Nile is here exceedingly deep ; its banks are perpendicular ; and, notwithstanding the decrease of the inundation, the water was not many feet below the level of the land. Our pathway, which ran close along the edge of the stream, was, in many places, barely wide enough to allow of the passing of a single beast between the sand hills and the water, and so unstable and slippery, that the smallest degree of unsteadiness would inevitably have precipitated us into the Nile. However, one only of our whole party alighted, though in all such cases it would seem to be the wiser way to trust to one's own feet.

XLI. For some hours our road still continued to lead through the desert, or over those fields, once fertile, which its perpetual encroachments have snatched from cultivation ; and in the midst of this sterile tract we passed by a lofty ancient tower, in the Saracenic style, standing in the sand, close to the deserted mosque or convent of *Mesa*. The character of the country now changed. From a bare waste expanse, whose surface is the perpetual play-

thing of the winds, we entered upon a marsh, beautified, in many parts, by groves of date trees, and by various kinds of shrubs, rushes, reeds, and other aquatic plants. Scattered here and there among these woods and copses were numerous sheets of clear water, which beautifully reflected the passing clouds, and on whose surface were seen, on all sides, snipes, curlews, wild ducks, with large flights of the white ibis, or paddy-bird, moving hither and thither, or settling on the branches of the trees, like immense snow-drops. The appearance of these diminutive lakes, running in various shapes among low sandy shores, their surface dotted with small bosky islands, or with sand-banks covered with a thick efflorescence of salt, as white as snow, was exceedingly picturesque. Here a part of my companions, who were sportsmen, found abundance of game.

XLII. At length, after a ride of several hours, we arrived at *Tifeny*, a village situated on both banks of the Nile, where we were to cross over into the Delta. There being no caravanserai at this place, we halted by a sheikh's tomb, on the banks of the river, where our beasts were unladen. Dates, butter, and excellent buffalo's milk, with bread, which we had brought from Alexandria, constituted our mid-day meal, which we ate sitting in the sun, while the muezzin, from the minaret of a neighbouring mosque, was summoning the faithful to the *Sallâh il Dohr*, or "noon prayer." On the margin of the river various operations, connected with the domestic eco-

mony of the Arabs, were, at the same time, going on. There was a man cutting up, upon the mud, a buffalo, which he had just killed, while the dogs were lapping the blood. Several women were employed in turning the entrails inside out, and others in hacking and hewing the reeking limbs for immediate consumption. A little below there was a party of washerwomen. While I was engaged in looking at these different groups, a pretty young female, bareheaded and barefoot, came tripping across the green, to draw water from the river. The immodest costume, which Euripides objects to the Spartan women, was decent compared with that of this young Arab matron ; for the opening in the chemise, the only garment which she wore, not only exposed to view the whole of the bosom, but the greater part likewise of the abdomen : but at this I soon ceased to be surprised ; for the fair sex, in Egypt, provided they can hide their faces,—and it is those of the higher order only who attempt to do this,—care not what other part of their person they exhibit ; observing, that it is by the features alone that one individual is distinguished from another, all women being, in other respects, pretty nearly alike. Having filled her jar, she twisted a wisp of straw into a ring, and placed it on her head to hold the vessel, which an Arab, apparently a neighbour, lifted up for her.

XLIII. In crossing the ferry, our party occupied three boats, one with a sail, which drew the second after it. The third was rowed across. As soon as we

entered the Delta, we observed on every side proofs of its amazing fertility : luxuriant crops of young wheat exquisitely green, exuberant rank grass, plants of gigantic size, beautiful tall tufted reeds, and palms and sycamores of enormous growth. Our road lay along the bank of the Nile, whose ruddy waters were now beautifully smooth, and reflected every reed which fringed its margin, and every lazy sail that moved upon its surface. Game, at least what *we* called game, abounds prodigiously in these rich plains. Wild ducks, widgeons, snipes, curlews, hoopoes, doves, pigeons, plovers grey and green, partridges, together with hares, and fine large wild boars, are met with in the greatest abundance ; but, the hares and boars requiring too much time and preparation, we confined our attention principally to the doves, snipes, and wild ducks. Twenty-four birds of all sorts were shot in a few hours, as we rode along, and served to exercise the ingenuity of our Arab cook in the evening. At about an hour's distance from Fouah we passed a sheikh's or saint's tomb, erected under the shade of a sycamore of extraordinary size and antiquity, into the trunk of which had been driven a number of large nails, intended to support as many votive offerings, consisting of rags of every possible form and colour. On arriving at Fouah, we proceeded to the caravanserai, which stood in the midst of the bazār ; and, having taken possession of a large apartment, began at once to feather our birds and prepare for supper. The dates and bananas, which constituted

our dessert, were of an excellent quality, and the finest Nile water was our beverage.

XLIV. Fouah is a large town, picturesquely situated on the right bank of the Nile, and has a small island in front of it, covered with tall reeds. It has numerous high brick houses, with many windows; and possesses several mosques, cupolas, minarets, baths, and manufactories. The *tarboosh* manufactory, which enjoys some celebrity in Egypt, is in the hands of Tunisians. It is a large building, well constructed, and is kept neater and cleaner than any of the Pasha's mills. The fulling-mill, moved by a wheel turned by oxen, is placed below the surface of the ground, and in it stands the driver who urges on the animals. They make use of the best European wool, which, after being carded, in small slips, is spun by women, and *netted* into *tarbooshes* by little girls. The caps are then taken to the fulling-mill, where they undergo the operation of being cleaned with soap and water, and where they shrink to nearly half their original volume. They are then wrung, put upon blocks to dry, teased and sheared smooth and neat, after which they are dyed to any intensity of shade required. They are afterwards finished up with fine shears, brushes, &c., and, being marked, and mounted with silk, are put under a press. The cattle used in the mills were all in excellent order; and the working people of both sexes, amounting to 2000, seemed much better off than the poor devils employed in the cotton mills. This establishment can

manufacture 500 caps in a week. The Pasha often sends in orders for 30,000 or 40,000 caps for the army. There is also a department for the manufacture of *zaboos*, or coarse woollen military cloaks for the *Nizam*. A finer sort of tarbooshes is likewise manufactured here for the Cairo market, where they are made to pass for Tunisian or Fezzani. They formerly manufactured, for the Constantinople market, tarbooshes higher in the crown, and thicker, than those worn in Egypt; where two, the one a little smaller than the other, are generally used to protect the head from the sun. But the most curious articles produced at Fouah are certain very delicate caps for the Pasha's harem, of the most beautiful texture, and so small as to fit the nipple of the breast; it being the custom among ladies of rank in the East, to show the bosom through a thin gauze, but to cover the most tender part with red, probably for the sake of effect.*

Sunday, Nov. 25. *El Kodabé*.

XLV. After breakfasting on coffee, eggs, dates, bananas, and most excellent fresh butter, we quitted Fouah about half past seven o'clock. The morning,

* As even the most intimate friends, among the Orientals, are not admitted into the privacy of the harems, whatever I relate of the internal economy of those "sacred apartments" must be understood to have been derived from others. But I was acquainted, in Egypt, with several Levantine Christian ladies, who lived on terms of intimacy with Turkish families of distinction, visited the harems, and mingled still more freely with the ladies in the public baths. From them I derived considerable information, which I shall hereafter introduce when I come to speak of the female establishment of Ibrahim Pasha.

though there was a cool breeze stirring, was sunny and beautiful ; and the country so richly wooded, so varied in aspect by different kinds of cultivation, so dotted with villages, and flocks, and herds, and flights of white ibises, that it might well be called picturesque. Our road constantly lay within a short distance of the Nile, and sometimes close along its edge, where there was just room enough to pass between the water and those high banks of earth, or jungly thickets, which, in many places, border the stream. The river, in this part of its course, is much broader than at Rosetta, and here and there its channel is divided by small fairy islands, thickly covered with wood. Numerous boats with large triangular sails, and manned with Arabs or Nubians, were sailing rapidly along the shore ; some stemming, others taking advantage of the current. The villages are extremely thick in this part of the Delta ; and though, in reality, poor and ruinous, their mosques, cupolas, minarets, and white tombs, seen from afar through openings in the forests by which they are surrounded, have an air of importance and grandeur which serves to delight the eye. But it is not in the villages only that we meet with the tombs of saints. They frequently, in all parts of Egypt, stand in solitary places, and have usually a fountain and small grove adjoining, where the wandering dervish pauses to pray, and the less pious traveller to quench his thirst, or enjoy the cool shade. These buildings generally consist of a large square apartment, surmounted by a dome, in many cases handsomely fluted ; and some pious or gloomy

man commonly devotes himself to the service of the sheikh, and resides in the tomb, where we always find a mat, a water jar, and a small chest to receive the donations of the passer by.

XLVI. In the course of the afternoon we passed through *Ed Desoog*, or *Deir Ibrahim*, a large village, possessing a celebrated mosque, to which, according to Denon, upwards of 200,000 individuals resort twice a year in pilgrimage. But on this point the French traveller appears to have been ill informed ; at all events, I could obtain nothing from the Arabs to corroborate his account. *Ed Desoog* occupies the site of the ancient Naucratis, to which city the Greeks, in their commerce with ancient Egypt, were compelled to resort, the other parts of the kingdom being closed against them. It stood on the eastern bank of the Bolbitinic or Rosetta branch of the Nile, and was the birthplace of the sophist Athenæus. From this village we proceeded to *Sa el Hajjar*, or, “ Sa of the Stones,” near which is supposed to have stood SAIS, once the capital of Lower Egypt. Long before we reached the place, vast mounds of rubbish were seen rising behind the village, and close to the road was a small rocky eminence, in the face of which were two or three low openings, like the entrance to so many caverns. Trusting to the assurances which were given us, that no antiquities whatever existed in the place, we made no stay at *Sa el Hajjar* ; but, although there seems to be no reason to doubt the accuracy of these assertions, I still regret

that I did not devote at least one day to the city of Neith, where stood of old the mysterious statue of Nature, with the inscription, — “ I AM ALL THAT HAS BEEN, IS, OR SHALL BE ; AND NO MORTAL HATH EVER DRAWN ASIDE MY VEIL.” Apries, who was conquered at Momemphis by Amasis, had here a magnificent palace ; and his successor, not to be outdone by him in taste or splendour, is said to have constructed in this city propylæa so vast, and built with stones of so prodigious a magnitude *, that they surpassed in grandeur every thing of the kind which had been before seen. But with Herodotus such expressions are not uncommon : he makes use of much the same phrases in speaking of the Labyrinth †, which the colleagues of Psammetichus erected in the Arsinoïtic Nome ; and modern travellers, fond of dealing in the marvellous, repeat the hackneyed tale one after another.

XLVII. Another story, still more hackneyed, is, that Athens was founded by a colony from Sais. In the absence of all historical evidence of the slightest value, it is extraordinary that so improbable a fiction should have been credited by the learned. Colonies, in all other cases, have been found to resemble, in some characteristic features, the nations from which they have gone forth : but in what did the people of Athens bear any likeness to the Egyptians ? Did they speak the same language ? Did they make use

* Euterpe, c. 175

† Idem, c. 148.

of hieroglyphics? Did they preserve the Egyptian form of government? Did they worship the same gods? On the contrary, it is clear, from the physical type of the two nations, that they did not even belong to the same family of mankind. Besides, the authors who represent Egypt as the mother of so many colonies, inform us, at the same time, that its ancient inhabitants entertained the most rooted aversion to navigation, and had no ships. How, then, could she send forth colonies beyond sea? The most that can be said for this fanciful hypothesis is, that, perhaps, some fugitive chieftain from the Delta, which was the principal residence of the military caste, having offended his sovereign, may have escaped with a few followers in a Phœnician vessel bound for Greece, and been received by the humane Athenians, whose city was in remote ages, what England is now, the refuge for the wretched and oppressed of all other countries. If the exile brought with him the knowledge of any useful art with which the Athenians were unacquainted, that ingenious and grateful people would no doubt reward him with distinction and honours, and, perhaps, raise him to the supreme power. But, admitting this to have been the case, we can no more term the ancient Athenians an Egyptian colony, than we can assert the modern Greeks to be an offshoot from Bavaria, because, in obedience to the wishes of Europe, they have received a king from that country. On the other hand, it is certain that several cities in Lower Egypt were founded by the Greeks: Canopus, Metelis, Nau-

cratis. Why, then, may we not suppose that Sais also was a Greek city? * The Neith, or Minerva, worshipped here, was originally unknown throughout the rest of Egypt †: the olive, the peculiar production of Attica, was cultivated with great care in the Saitic Nome; coins, with the head of Minerva on one side and an owl on the other, are said to have been found among its ruins ‡; and Van Egmont and Clarke, men not unacquainted with ancient learning, were led by a train of reasoning, not, perhaps, unlike the above, to conclude that Sais was founded by an Athenian colony. But of this question more in another place. From Sa el Hajjar we proceeded to El Kodabé, where we were furnished by the Sheïkh el Beled, or “village chief,” with a room for ourselves, and a court and provender for our beasts. The Arabs always slept in the open air beside their asses.

Monday, Nov. 26. *Tookh el Nassera.*

XLVIII. Set out about the usual hour in the morning, and having crossed the canal of *El Feresak*, and passed through the village of *Beir*, a large striking-looking place, arrived about noon at *Kafir*

* Diodorus Siculus attributes the founding of *Sais* to the Athenians, l. v. c. 3.; and Plato, in *Timæo*, says that Athens was more ancient than Sais by a thousand years.

† Jablonski, *Pantheon Ægyptiorum*, i. 52. 58. 60.

‡ The effgies of the Egyptian Neith, as it is found upon existing monuments, in no respects resembles that of the Athenian Pallas, and could not possibly be confounded with it. Dr. Richardson, therefore, who speaks of these coins, must mean the Grecian *Αθηνη*; and, indeed, no one, I believe, ever heard of such coins among the Egyptians.

Diarni, where we dined in the shade of a beautiful orange and citron grove. The ground was covered with fine green turf, and the trees were filled with doves and pigeons. Directly opposite this village, on the other side of the canal, we observed a great number of men employed in raising an embankment. Among these poor people there appears to be no idea of modesty or decorum ; for the greater number of these men were quite naked, notwithstanding that a crowd of women and children, probably their wives, mothers, and daughters, was assembled close by, looking on. The men, in this part of the country, have generally athletic forms, brown complexions, and good features ; and many of the women are good-looking, if not handsome, and have very graceful figures. Boys always go naked up to the age of puberty : the girls have commonly a few rags to cover themselves.

XLIX. The *Sant*, or mimosa tree, whose thin shade is compared by the Arabs to a false friend, who deserts you when most needed, is here extremely common, and in some places literally embowers the road. I make use of the word *road* for want of a better ; but, in fact, there is no road, the track by which we travel being nothing more than a narrow pathway, in some places leading over ploughed fields intersected with sloughs and ditches. The canals, of which there are several in this part of the Delta, are generally traversed in ferry-boats ; but we this morning found a fine stone bridge thrown over one

of the principal branches of the canal of Harinen. This is one of the useful works of the Pasha. A few good roads and bridges would do more than a hundred cotton-mills towards ameliorating the condition of the people, — the first step towards genuine civilisation ; — for though the Nile forms one vast and splendid highway from one end of Egypt to the other, ordinary roads are still wanting, more especially in Lower Egypt. In moving along the wretched pathways leading from Kafr Diami to Tookh el Nassera, one of the baggage animals, which carried the bed of a gentleman of our party, rolled down the steep side of the embankment, not a foot wide in that part, and fell into a miry ditch, where both the animal and his load were soaked with water and mud. Several children, who passed us in the afternoon, mounted astride on buffaloes, possessed extremely fair complexions, and one, that particularly attracted my attention, had long light hair, and all the engaging features of an European child. These buffaloes differ remarkably from those of India, in not having the hump upon the back. They are large awkward animals, with horns turned back flat upon the head, and, like their brethren of Asia, love to roll in the mud, and to lie in the water during hot weather, with their noses only appearing above the surface. Some time before arriving at our halting-place, I had separated from the rest of the company, and was riding on alone. One of our Arabs, who understood a little of that strange kind of Italian which is spoken at Alexandria, observing this, immediately

deserted the sumpter animals, and stuck close to my skirts. I desired him to leave me, and attend to his charge ; but as he did not appear to understand me, I repeated the same thing twice or three times ; and at length became rather angry. He then showed me his stick, and, pointing across the field to several fellahs who were at work, replied, — “ I will not leave you here alone. Those Arabs are bad men ; but they will not touch you while I am by. When the other gentlemen come up, I will attend to the baggage.” I told him I wore pistols. “ No matter,” said he : “ your pistols are but two, and the Arabs are a thousand.” There were at most thirty persons within sight ; but this is their manner of speaking. “ Very well, Mohammed,” I replied, “ you may stay ;” and he accordingly trotted behind me as long as he thought proper.

L. Upon our arrival at Tookh el Nassera, the Sheikh el Beled, in whose house we were lodged, and several of his friends, came to visit us, and, sitting down on the mat, asked permission to read some papers which they carried in their hands, by the light of one of our candles. When they had looked over their papers, which we knew was merely done as an excuse for introducing themselves, they began, in a roundabout way, to enquire whether we could not spare them a little wine. We replied that we had none, but contented ourselves with drinking the water of the Nile. This they would not believe : no Europeans, they said, ever travelled without wine ;

and they entreated us to let them share our stock. It was in vain that we assured them of the contrary ; they remained incredulous ; smoked their pipes ; smiled, and looked quite persuaded that they should get some at last. At length they whispered something about brandy ; and one of our party proposed that we should give them a good dose of *eau de Cologne* : but this was over-ruled ; and, after much useless entreaty and abundance of grimaces, they left us in a passion. When this scene was over, I wrapped myself in my burnoose, and went out in the dark, to observe the appearance of an Arab village by night. The lanes were very narrow, and the dogs, barking as I passed, brought out many an old woman to the door. The majority, indeed, had retired to rest ; but in many cottages, and in one large building, — no doubt a factory, — I heard the sound of the spinning-wheel, which, as I was unluckily compelled to observe, continued at work all night. It was a walled village, and at every gate there was a sentinel keeping watch as in a besieged city — a proof of the dread and insecurity in which the peasantry pass their lives. Returning to our lodging, I retired to bed with the rest, one of whom had a fever, and another the dysentery. Few slept much, and myself not at all ; for the fleas, bugs, mosquitoes, and other vermin, literally swarmed in the room, and the rats and mice, rummaging in the baskets of provisions, biting each other, squeaking, creeping down the walls, leaping upon our feet or breasts, effectually put sleep to flight.

Tuesday, Nov. 27. *Bershaum.*

LI. Having every possible inducement to early rising, we were up long before four o'clock ; and, having taken coffee, and saddled and loaded our beasts, were prepared to start with the dawn. Sooner than this we could not depart, as our *asinarii* were unacquainted with the tracks, which, the waters of the inundation not having yet retired, were exceedingly circuitous and intricate ; but as soon as the light began to appear in the east, we took our leave of the mosquitoes and rats of Tookh el Nassera. It was a fine serene morning ; the skylarks were already busy among the grey clouds ; the peasants were afield ; and I watched with unusual interest the unfolding of the landscape, as its rich and varied features came forth one after another, touched by the rapid pencil of the morning. A vast canal, which we crossed about six o'clock, supplied, with its winding course and reedy banks, the place of a river, and the whole face of the country, green and level as a meadow, was beautifully ornamented with small tufted groves of mimosa trees, intermingled with palms and sycamores.

LII. After passing through two or three smaller villages, we arrived, about half past ten o'clock, at *Shibin el Kom*, a place of some consideration, where the Pasha has erected an extensive factory. Here we entered into a large garden, where we breakfasted under the shade of orange and citron trees. While our meal

was preparing, we witnessed what, in popular phraseology, may be termed *a row*, between a woman and two or three men. The woman, who appeared to be the proprietor's wife, had, upon promise of a small reward, permitted us to enter the garden ; which the husband, on arriving, thought proper to take amiss, and began to pour forth a torrent of abuse upon his helpmate. She returned his vituperation with interest ; and, in the end, though he was backed by two of his workmen, whose tongues were to the full as loud as his own, the woman, who from time to time pointed at us with her finger, clearly gained the victory, and sent them all away grumbling to their work. Another young woman, with a child in her arms, who seemed to have entered the garden in order to gaze at us, was tattooed in an extraordinary manner, having several lines of small figures running across the chin, a row of blue stars and flowers on the inside of the arm, and round the wrists a very curious imitation of bracelets. This practice prevails more or less among all the Arab women, whose chins are generally thus disfigured ; in addition to which, some imprint the figure of a small flower on the left breast ; others on other parts ; but I have nowhere observed a person so ingeniously ornamented as this young woman. The punctures, as among the South Sea Islanders, are made with the point of a needle, and rubbed over, while fresh and bleeding, with a sort of paste formed of powdered charcoal and oil. But the process

is highly dangerous : fevers almost invariably ensue, which sometimes terminate fatally.

LIII. A little to the north of Shibin el Kom, the canal of Tanta joins that of Harinen ; and, for some time after leaving the above village, we proceeded along the stream formed by their union ; which, though denominated a canal, possesses all the beauty of a natural river, its winding banks being richly adorned with plantations of orange and lemon trees, whose golden fruit, now ripe, and clustering thick among the deep green foliage, literally glowed in the sun. The earth, in many places, was beautifully carpeted with tender green corn ; and groves of sant, tamarisks, acacias, and sycamores, exhibiting every various shade of verdure, formed a remarkable contrast with the fields of ripe yellow grain, which clothed every broad glade and opening vista with an air of opulence and abundance. Indeed, the land had here all the characteristics of the finest park scenery, and, at one particular bend of the river, greatly resembled the landscape on the banks of the Thames below Richmond. Our track lay almost constantly along the banks of the great canals, so that we probably saw the most fertile part of the country ; but, as small arms or branches from the main streams ramificate, like veins, in every direction through the land, there can nowhere, I imagine, be any lack of rich corn-fields or noble pasturage. Yet, in the midst of this magnificent plain, lying between the canal of Menouf and the Damiatta branch of

the Nile, fertile even to rankness, the poorest villages, perhaps, in Egypt are found. The Nile overflows, and the sun ripens in vain. Misgovernment more than counterbalances the bounty of nature, and leaves the wretched peasant pining with want in the midst of luxuriant harvests and over-filled granaries. On arriving at Bershaum, we found that the Sheikh el Beled, who had several villages under his government, was absent, and not expected to return that night : in consequence of which, we for some time inquired in vain for a lodging, and began to think of passing the night in the street ; but, at length, some good-natured Arab consented to accommodate us with a cow-house and another small chamber capable of containing two beds. The floor of the cow-house, where we dined, was thickly strewed with dhourra straw ; and our lantern, shaken to pieces by the jolting of the road, placed upon the earthen basin which contained our butter, was often upset among the straw, to the no small danger of the whole tenement. However, our Arab cook, accustomed to scanty conveniences, prepared us an excellent supper, consisting of doves, snipes, quails, &c. stewed in onions ; and our long day's journey had provided us with an appetite.

Wednesday, Nov. 28. *Cairo.*

LIV. Next morning, being desirous of reaching Cairo before sunset, we set out soon after dawn, through a thick white fog, like those which, during the preceding winter, I had seen covering the great plains of Burgundy. Though our course, on quit-

ting Bershaum, lay close along the Damiatta branch of the Nile, we could at first discover nothing beyond the mere edge of the stream ; but, when the fog began to clear up a little, and suffered us to discern the opposite bank, this arm of the river appeared to exceed the other in width. By degrees, as the sun gained force, a light breeze sprang up, and began to dissipate the fog, which was driven along like sleet, leaving the whole earth drenched as after a heavy shower. Every object beheld through this mist appeared greatly magnified : a man riding an ass seemed to be mounted on a camel, and a little boy looked like a man. As soon as the atmosphere had cleared up, the heat of the sun began to be very powerful ; every person felt oppressed, and our animals moved along faintly and languidly, — the effect of humidity : for in Upper Egypt and Nubia, where the heat is far greater, no such languor is experienced.

LV. At Shubr-es-Shawieh we crossed the Nile, and entered the land of Goshen, the residence of the *Beni Israël*, once fertile and flourishing, but now more than half deserted, and rapidly assimilating in character and features to the desert. At Kelioub, the capital of this district, we halted to breakfast. Here, beneath a spreading sycamore, we found a kind of hedge coffee-house, the landlord having kindled a fire between two piles of loose bricks, and spread his mat under the shelter of a mud wall. We took up our position on the other side of the tree ; and, while some of our party proceeded to the village

in search of dates, eggs, milk, and butter, the remainder undertook to boil rice and prepare coffee. The Pasha's monopoly having rendered the real Mokha berry exceedingly scarce and dear, the poor Arabs have long been fain to content themselves with a very inferior American coffee, which, in order to render it more palatable, they flavour with cloves. Such was the beverage which this man of Goshen distributed to the wayfarers in Kelioub. We took each a *finjan**; and, though unsugared, it did not to me taste amiss; but my companions thought it execrable. When our meal was ready, we sat down and ate it under the tree; and a poor old beggar, who had previously established himself there, and to whom we gave a portion of our fare, called down the blessings of Allah on our unbelieving heads. Charity covereth a multitude of sins. Here, for the first time, I tasted the conserve of dates, so well known in the East, which is made, in the latter end of autumn, when the fruit is perfectly ripe, by taking out the stones from the dates, and then pressing them in thick masses together. This conserve will keep all the year, and is extremely well tasted; but, in some cases, when no care has been taken to free the fruit from dust, a number of sandy particles are found grating under the teeth. Near the sycamore tree was a large pond of water, left by the inundation,

* The small coffee cup of the Turks and Arabs is so called. The little brass or silver filigree stand, in which this cup is presented to you, and which is sometimes of very elegant form, they call *zerf*. Mr. Barker, late his Majesty's Consul-General in Egypt, possesses the most tasteful *zerfs* and *finjans* I have any where seen.

which served as fountain, washing place, and horse-pond to the whole village.

LVI. Having finished our meal, we remounted, and pushed on with great vigour towards Cairo. The slight haze, which had all the morning obstructed the view towards the west, now cleared away, and we discovered, on the edge of the Libyan desert, the apex of the Pyramids. I now felt that I was in Egypt. But, notwithstanding the ideas, manifold and mysterious as they are, which history has invincibly connected, in our mind, with these prodigious structures, they by no means, when first beheld from afar, excite those powerful emotions of astonishment and admiration which the sublimity of nature gives birth to. On the contrary, when beginning to loom upon you across the desert, through openings in the palm forests, they appear little better than huge brick-kilns. In fact, you only see a small portion of their upper part. But when you consider that you are still at the distance of a long day's journey from them ; that their fair proportions are apparently curtailed by the mere rotundity of the globe ; that they have withstood the wear and tear of 3000 years ; and that, if left entirely to the action of the elements, they will probably equal the world itself in duration, your imagination begins to take fire, and acquires, by degrees, a just conception of the sublime design of the architect. As we rode along, the eye, thus aided by the imagination, which alone vivifies and endues this sublunary scene with beauty, began

to be familiarised with them, to measure them more accurately, and to transmit to the mind a juster idea of their magnitude and grandeur. Every other object, for the time, was forgotten. They occupied and filled the whole mind ; and as we drew nearer and nearer, they seemed to lift themselves up, like giants, far above every thing around — the monuments and the tombs of an extinct people, whose bones and ashes, gathered together, might all have been hidden within the dimensions of those prodigious edifices. Two only of the Pyramids are at first visible ; and it is sometime before that of Mycerinus appears. As you advance, those of Cheops and Cephrenes seem to join at the base : you see two points apparently rising from one foundation, and, shortly afterwards, the former entirely masks the latter, and they appear to be reduced to one.

LVII. Arriving at Shoubra, we passed through the grounds of the Pasha's palace, and entered that grand avenue of trees which leads from thence all the way to Cairo. The road is here at least ninety or one hundred feet in breadth, and bordered on either side by a row of noble sycamores, acacias, mimosas, and tamarisks, whose branches, meeting above in many places, form a verdant arch, at all times impervious to the rays of the sun. The views on both sides are magnificent. Close at hand, on the right, is the Nile, with its whole surface trembling and glittering in the sun ; numerous small barks, with lateen sails, moving up and down the stream ; and,

beyond these, a richly cultivated country backed by the desert. On the left, between the stems of the trees, I discovered Cairo itself, with its walls, and minarets, and domes, and towers, basking in the sun, apparently at the very foot of the Porphyry Mountains, which, contrary to all other mountains, appear red at a distance, even when their tops seem to blend with the sky. Beheld from afar, Cairo truly appears worthy to be the metropolis of Egypt. Skirted by groves and gardens, its light, airy structures seem to be based upon a mass of verdure ; long lines of buildings, white, glittering, and infinitely varied in form, rise behind each other ; and the palace and citadel, cresting a steep projection of the Mokattam ridge, conduct the eye to that vast rocky barrier which protects the victorious* city from the blasts of the desert. At the termination of the grand avenue, where the road from Boolak unites with that of Shoubra, immense mounds of rubbish, with the appearance of natural eminences, obstruct the view of the Nile ; but, on the left, the eye is still refreshed by the sight of numerous gardens of banana, lemon, orange, and citron trees, laden with ripe fruit, and scattering a faint but delicious perfume through the air. The Alexandrians had taught me to expect a very different prospect. The entrance from Shoubra to the capital, they said, was mean, naked, insignificant : but I found it otherwise. In fact, the near view of the city from this side seemed more imposing

* *Masr el Kahira*, or "the Victorious," the Oriental name of Cairo.

than the distant one. Lofty garden walls, over which long, regular rows of palm trees were waving their elegant pendent branches ; houses, in many cases new, spacious, and furnished with glass windows, or very neat lattice-work, conducted us to the Place Esbekeyah, an immense square, containing large sheets of water, fields of green corn, and groves of noble sycamores ; and traversed by a fine, broad gravel walk, over which crowds of people were passing to and fro, some on foot, others mounted on horses, or asses, or camels, or dromedaries, in every variety of costume, from the meanest to the most gorgeous. Two sides of this immense square are surrounded by palaces ; the others are occupied by ranges of lofty antique structures, which, though considerably dilapidated, have still a striking Oriental air, resembling, in some respects, the architectural pictures of Prout and Canaletti. Having crossed this open space, the only one worth mentioning in all Cairo, we plunged into the narrow, tortuous streets leading to the Frank quarter, through so motley a crowd as no other city, perhaps, in the world could have supplied : — Arabs, Jews, Armenians, Copts, Turks, Negroes, Germans, Poles, Italians, French, English, Greeks, — all in their national dresses, — red, blue, yellow, green, gray, black, white ; — in short, all the colours of the rainbow. At the Hotel *del Giardino*, kept by an Italian officer, formerly in the service of the Pasha, we found tolerably good apartments, at a price not, perhaps, exorbitant ; and there we remained during our stay in Cairo.

CHAPTER V.

VILLAGE OF THE ALMÉ — MANNERS AND DRESS OF THE DANCING GIRLS — REMARKS ON THEIR PERFORMANCES — MANNERS OF THE CAIREENS — THE CITADEL — THE PASHA'S MENAGERIE — THE PALACE — AUDIENCE CHAMBER — THE GOVERNOR — VIEW OF CAIRO — THE MINT — WELL OF JOSEPH — STORY OF A MURDER — LOSS OF AN ARAB — TRANSLATION COMMITTEE — DIALOGUE WITH A FAKIR — PRINTING-OFFICE — COUNCIL CHAMBER — THE HAREM — THE PASHA'S CHILDREN — MOSQUE IN THE CITADEL — REMAINS OF SALADIN'S PALACE — SARACENIC CEMETERY — TOMBS OF THE PASHA'S FAMILY — TOUSSOUN PASHA.

Tuesday, Nov. 29.

LVIII. AMONG the most interesting and remarkable spectacles in the modern capital of Egypt, are the performances of the *almé*, of which many travellers have made mention, without, however, bestowing on the accomplished actresses all the praises which they appear to deserve. In reality, what is termed the “dance of the *almé*,” is the opera of the Orientals. All ranks, and both sexes, young and old, delight in the exhibition ; and the ladies of the harem, instructed in the art by the *almé* themselves, perform in their own apartments, for the amusement of their families. Even the wives and daughters of Europeans, who have long resided in the country, contract a partiality for this dance, and are no more ashamed to entertain their friends by the lascivious movements which it requires, than they are, in Europe, to waltz. On my

arrival at Cairo, therefore, my first inquiry was concerning the dancing girls, who, I was told, lived apart from the profane vulgar, in the little rural village of *Sha'arah*,—the *Eleusis* of modern Egypt, — where the mysteries of *Athor*, the Mother of the Universe, are still celebrated by those youthful priestesses. Accompanied by one of my companions across the Delta, and an interpreter, I this morning rode out to the opera, which is got up at a few minutes' notice, at any hour of the day or night. Traversing nearly the whole of the city, we issued forth into the fields, through one of the most ruinous and unfrequented suburbs, and, in about half an hour,—

“ *Facilis descensus Averni,*”—

arrived at the village, which, I am sorry to say, consists of a small collection of mud huts, huddled together without order, though less poor and more cleanly than any of the other villages we had seen ; so that Sin, in Egypt, cannot be reproached with the gorgeousness of her appearance ; the Mohammedan saints and hermits being, in general, better lodged than the courtesans. On our arrival, a number of almé, many of them in very elegant attire, and adorned with a profusion of ornaments, came forth to meet and welcome us. They were all young ; none, perhaps, exceeding twenty ; and the majority between ten and sixteen years old. Some few would have been considered handsome, even in London ; but the greater number, though fairer than the Caireen women usually are, had little beside their youth and the

alluring arts of their profession to recommend them. When they were informed that we were desirous of witnessing their performances, they proceeded to conduct us to the coffee-house, where, it would seem, that the greater part of their lives is consumed, in sipping coffee, singing, and that sort of piquant conversation which becomes their calling.

LIX. In the great room of the coffee-house there were, perhaps, a hundred dancing girls assembled, — all intent on the enjoyment of the moment, — pupils of that sage school which teaches, “*carpere diem, quam minimum credulæ postero.*” Not being habituated to wine, coffee appeared to produce in them the same excitement and petulant gaiety to which Champagne or Burgundy sometimes gives birth among European women; and, having no motives for concealment, they expressed the subject of their meditations with a cynical intrepidity worthy of a Lais or a Phryne. Two or three — the handsomest of all — were elegantly, or rather, sumptuously, dressed, in short embroidered jackets, fitting close, and showing the whole contour of the form; with long loose trousers of half-transparent silk, a bright-coloured shawl round the waist, and small graceful turbans of muslin and gold. Their hair, which escaped in long black tresses from beneath the head-dress, was ornamented with strings of gold coins, strung like pearls, which, in some cases, depended in barbaric profusion over the forehead. Considerably the greater number were below the middle size, like the generality of their

countrywomen, with clear brown complexions, oval faces, fine teeth, and beautiful large dark eyes. Their dress, when not purposely discomposed, is by no means indecent ; but, proud of the native graces of their forms, they were daringly heedless of appearances, and contrived, with seeming negligence, to exhibit in succession every hidden charm which nature had bestowed upon them. Not having as yet stepped beyond the threshold of youth, their bosoms were exceedingly beautiful, and their limbs exquisitely round and tapering ; and they possessed that fulness and swell about the loins, which constitute the perfection of the female form, and indicate a prolific organisation. Though evidently disposed to exhibit all their arts of allurements, and overflowing with animal spirits, there was a quiet easy voluptuousness about their manner, inimical to extravagant gaiety. They sang, they smoked, they sipped coffee, or conversed in soft tones with each other, indulging, from time to time, in wanton movements, and speaking glances, which revealed the colour of their thoughts. Shakspeare, in his off-hand portrait of Cressid, a thorough member of this sisterhood, has given an excellent idea of their bearing and appearance : —

“ There’s language in her eye, her cheek, her lip :
Nay, her foot speaks : her wanton spirits look out
At every joint and motive of her body.”

LX. The principal *almé* now prepared to dance.
She was a fine Arab girl, in the flower of her age,

an Oriental would have thought her beautiful, — with a form resembling that of the Venus Kallipyga. Her ordinary dress, perhaps regarded as too prudish, was exchanged for a lighter and more tantalising costume, which, for exhibiting every beauty and contour of the figure, undoubtedly equalled the Coan robes celebrated by Horace, or those transparent Amorginian garments which Lysistrata, in Aristophanes, counsels the Athenian ladies to assume, for the laudable purpose of putting an end to the Peloponnesian War. The whole business of the toilette was performed in public ; and when her dress had been arranged so as to expose nearly the whole front of the person, she fastened round her waist a broad variegated belt, as thick as a horse's girth, without the support of which many of the postures required by the nature of the dance would be impossible. Throwing off her slippers, she then commenced the pantomime, her movements being accompanied by the music of the Egyptian pipe and drum, the songs of two or three of her companions, and the petulant, wanton sounds of the castanets. Many travellers affect to have been much disgusted by the performances of the *almé*, and, perhaps, when the dancers are ugly, the exhibition may have but few charms ; but, in general, it is not beheld without pleasure *, and I fear that a company of

* The editor of that useful and clever compilation, the "Modern Traveller," observes, on this subject, that "Niebuhr's ingenuous testimony will sufficiently explain how it is that Franks can become reconciled to *so disgusting an exhibition*." Niebuhr says, "By degrees we learned to endure them ; and, for want of better, began to fancy some of them pretty, to imagine their voices agreeable, their movements graceful,

accomplished *almé*, engaged by an opera manager, would draw crowded houses in Paris or London. The dance, which is κατ' ἐξοχὴν mimetic, represents a tale of love ; at least, as love is understood in the East. Laying the scene in the desert, the fair one first appears as if standing, in the twilight, at the door of her tent, expecting her lover. Pensive, restless, tortured by doubts, by suspicion, by jealousy, she casts a wistful glance over the waste, on which the shadows of evening are gathering, but beholds not her beloved — hears not the resounding hoofs of his steed ; while the rising moon, which was wont to light him to her impatient arms, mingles its light with that of the retreat-

though indecent, and their music not absolutely intolerable." Now, however *ingenuous* the Danish traveller may be thought, there is something of a Jesuitical spirit in this passage ; for by saying they learned to *endure them*, he would seem desirous of having it thought that they beheld their performances unwillingly, but that, by degrees, the infliction lost much of its poignancy. To become accustomed to an exhibition, however, it is necessary to behold it frequently ; and, where men are perfectly free, as Niebuhr was, they will not behold frequently that which is disagreeable to them : it follows, therefore, that the dances of the *almé* were not disagreeable to the Dane ; that, on the contrary, they were so pleasant, that they constituted his habitual amusement. No recourse need be had to any person's testimony to explain how the Franks become *reconciled* to this spectacle : all travellers, of both sexes, witness it ; the performers are women, who, notwithstanding the wantonness of their movements, exhibit great histrionic powers, and thus, in some measure, divert your attention from their impudence to their skill and ability. The Bayadères of Hindoostan, no less objectionable than the *almé*, are constantly, in Calcutta, introduced at parties frequented by English ladies, of all women the most moral and decorous ; and in the Turkish empire, where the dance is every where the same, few refuse to be present at the spectacle. At Alexandria and Cairo, many of the French and Italian ladies, I am told, perform themselves.

ing day, and rapidly acquires the ascendancy. In a reproachful, despondent tone, which gradually becomes impassioned, as memory places before her fancy the picture of past delights, she has recourse to the aid of song, in order the more completely to depict her feelings. The words, in the Arabic, are imbued with all the ardour which consumes her soul ; but in the following imitation, or rather paraphrase, much, I fear, of the erotic fire is lost : —

SONG OF THE ALME'.

Ya leli, ya lel ; — Allah ! ya lel.

The night, the night ; Oh, Heaven ! the night
Which brings thee, Hassan, to my arms ;
When those dear eyes, so mild, so bright,
Bewitch me with their magic charms.

The moon is up—each bush, each grove
Is vocal with the night-bird's song ;
Wherefore, oh, wherefore, then, my love !
Tarries thy bounding steed so long ?

Some dark-brown tent :—some rival fair,
With ruddy lip, and flashing eye,
Hath cast around thy heart a snare,
While here alone I weep and sigh.

She hears thy dear deluding voice
Flowing like some melodious river,
And deems the moment's fickle choice
Will charm thy wayward heart for ever !

Ah, no !—The wrong'd, the loved one comes !
I see him bounding o'er the plain.
Allah ! where'er my Hassan roams,
I ne'er will doubt his love again.

The lovers being now together, the pantomime proceeds. At first, notwithstanding the earnestness with which she desired his presence, the damsel behaves coyly and bashfully ; repels his advances with becoming decorum ; plays the coquette ; retires while he pursues, —

“ Fugit ad salices, at se cupit ante videri ; ”

but all the while betrays, by looks of complacency, and the humid sparkling of the eye, that her feet and heart are running different ways. By degrees the dance assumes a more voluptuous character. The imagination of the bayadère, wrought upon by the comedy which she performs, kindles to flame ; her whole frame is agitated by passion, her eyes close, her head drops backward, her arms are pressed against her bosom ; while the music and the song, — for the whole is accompanied by words, — exhibit the same characteristics, and carry forward your ideas to the same goal. Lady Montague, who witnessed the exhibition in the harem, has ably and frankly described the dance and its effects upon the imagination : but many other exhibitions — comedies, operas, farces, waltzes — are open to the same objections, and yet are tolerated, though the only difference seems to be, that the latter are the irritamenta cupidinum of civilised nations, the former of barbarians. Vice, however, in whatever climate it is found, sooner or later conducts its votaries to the bitter waters of repentance. Even the pantomime of the *almé* has this moral ; for, the

paroxysm of passion over, we observe the fallen fair one a prey to the stings of remorse ; melancholy, dejected, humiliated, a fugitive from her home, recalling, amidst the hollow enjoyments of sin, the pure delights of her days of innocence, when her soul was untainted, and her person the object of an honourable love. One of their songs, which I have endeavoured to imitate, expresses with graphic energy the force and poignancy of these feelings * : —

My heart is in the desert vale, with Ahmed far away,
Where rush the streamlets down the rocks, where Arab
 maidens gay
Revel, all free and innocent, nor waste one thought on her
Who left, long years ago, that vale, in pleasure's paths to err.

Thither I wander in my dreams, and seem once more to stand
All fair and guiltless by my love upon the golden sand,
While moonlight falls in silver streams around each rock and
 tree,
Likening to Paradise a scene I never more must see.

There Ahmed with his desert bride, his loved ones crowding
 near,
Laments no more his Leila's fate — no, drops for me no tear,
Though once — be still, my bursting heart ! — though once he
 seem'd to prize
The perfume of my panting breath, the lightning of these
 eyes ! —

* Osman Effendi, who interpreted for me these scraps of poetry, compared the one here given to the old Scotch song, which he well remembered, —

“ My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here,” &c.

Bring music, bring the syren bowl! let wine and minstrelsy
Drown these home-wandering thoughts, and teach my soul to
taste of glee!

Then bid my Ali, full of love, hush all my cares to rest,
With his arm around my yielding waist, and his head upon
my breast.

All the nations of the East have, from the remotest ages, delighted in this species of exhibition, which from them passed into Greece* and Rome, where it furnished the poets with an agreeable theme for satire. Horace, whose Divus Augustus had doubtless helped to introduce it, laments that the young ladies had acquired a taste for the oriental style of dancing, which was evidently popular at Rome : —

“ Motus doceri gaudet Ionicos
Matura virgo; et fingitur artubus
Jam tunc, et incestos amores
De tenero meditatur ungui.”

And Juvenal, who had travelled in Egypt, thus, at a later period, makes mention of the Roman dancing girls : —

“ Forsitan expectes, ut Gaditana canoro
Incipiat prurire choro plausuque probatæ
Ad terram tremulo descendant clune puellæ,” &c. †

* For the details respecting these dances, I refer the reader to Scaliger's Poetics. “Thessalæ autem mulieres,” he observes, “nudæ saltabant, verenda modo tectæ, quæ subligacula διαζώσφας nominabant. Quo miror apud Euripidem Peleus qua ratione potuerit Lacænarum virginum nudationes objicere.” — l. i. c. 18. 8vo ed.

† Dr. Russell, in his Natural History of Aleppo, has cited these verses in his remarks on the same dance as it prevails in Syria. See also Macrob. ii. 1. Scaliger (Poet. i. 18.) enumerates three kinds of

The Bayadères, or Nautch girls of Hindoostan, whose performances are slightly noticed by Mrs. Heber, know no other kind of dance; and from paintings preserved in the grottoes of Eilithyias, and in the tombs of Thebes, we find that the ancient Egyptians had likewise their *almé*, who were employed in their domestic entertainments to heighten the effect of the song and the bowl by their voluptuous movements. At present, the ladies who practise these arts are divided into three or four classes, according to their beauty, and pay a tax to the Pasha, who, like his Most Christian Majesty, farms out the vices of his subjects. They are placed under the superintendence of the *Pezawink Bashi*, or Captain of the Courtesans; and when a party is sent for to perform in the evening at any private house, they must first repair to their chief, give in their names, and pay a large extra sum. Lately, this honourable personage, after a lengthened delinquency, was convicted of the most nefarious practices, among which was that of inserting in the list of courtesans, apparently through revenge, the names of several respectable ladies, the wives or daughters of his superiors. His punishment quickly followed, and was severe; but I forget in what it consisted: probably he was thrown into the Nile.

dances of this description practised by the ancients; viz. the *χειρονομία*, the *ἄλμα*, and the *λάκτισμα*. Among the ladies of modern Cadiz, whence the Romans imported their ablest performers, the dance is still kept up in all its primitive simplicity (see *Marti* and *Swinburne*); and, in the opinion of Scaliger, their style of dancing exceeded all others in effrontery: “*omnium corruptissima Gaditana*.”

The music which accompanies the dance cannot, it must be acknowledged, challenge much commendation ; but the Orientals, generally, appear to be exceedingly deficient in musical taste and science, and, like many persons in Europe, prefer noise and the clamour of numerous instruments to the concord of harmonious sounds. But the singers are chiefly women ; and the female voice, however untutored, has always, perhaps, the power to cast a spell over the judgment, more particularly when impassioned gestures, melting looks, and a certain dithyrambic enthusiasm, appear to transport the singer beyond herself, and render her, like the Mænades or Bacchantes of old, unmindful of every thing, but the ideas and desires which possess her soul, and of which every corporeal movement is an external manifestation. And this is not so much art as nature ; she becomes what she would seem — the *fœmina simplex* — uncurbed by that restraint and moral discipline and religious principle which in Christian countries, more especially in England, subdue and purify the passions, and elevate woman into the most pure and perfect of created things.

Saturday, Dec. 1.

LXI. Notwithstanding that so many travellers have favoured us with their remarks on Cairo, it appeared to me, upon the spot, that a very new and interesting volume might still be written on that city alone. It is an epitome of the whole Eastern world. There, as in a hot-bed, flourish all those vices which

have proved the bane of the vast but short-lived despotisms of the East. Converse with whomsoever you please, you quickly discover, amid the charms of the most dazzling and fascinating manners, infernal ideas and principles, peeping forth like the asp and the scorpion among flowers. Corruption, if not universal, is so general, that it seems to exhibit itself every where. The very tombs, when a little secluded, are not free from pollution. Yet, in the midst of this vortex of iniquity, the exterior prospect of manners, the features and costume in which society presents itself to the eye of the stranger, are generally solemn and stately; virtue and gravity are complimented with a ritual of hypocritical observances; and barbarians, in whom meanness and ignorance are as the breath of life, affect, in their walk and conversation, a dignity and generosity which belong to the highest wisdom alone. To the traveller, however, all this masquerading furnishes amusement: each day presents some new moral group to his observation; he learns to detect, one after another, the numerous contrivances which are resorted to, by all parties, to baffle his penetration; and, perhaps, among all the phenomena which excite his admiration, none are more truly astonishing than the metamorphoses which Europeans appear to undergo in that Circéan sty. But, besides these ethical pictures (which shall be sketched as they present themselves), Cairo affords more palpable spectacles; which, though perhaps less instructive, are yet not destitute of interest.

LXII. Among the numerous objects selected for the gratification of this day's curiosity, the first was the citadel, whither we proceeded rather early in the morning. The crowds which circulate through the streets of this vast city never appeared more animated or gay than on this morning, the fine sunshine which succeeded the last night's rain seeming to have quite revived them. In our way to the castle, we passed by several noble mosques and public fountains; many of the latter adorned with marble steps and gilded railings, and furnished with clean bright brass cups for the use of the people. On arriving at the entrance to the citadel, we were invited to alight, to view the Pasha's menagerie; which consisted of a young elephant, of very meagre appearance, and three lions, not of a large size, which are kept chained (though rather carelessly and slightly) in a wretched shed, closed in front with mats. One of the lions was blind, perhaps from ophthalmia, which, in Egypt, attacks both man and beast; but there was a young lioness of remarkable beauty, though inferior in size to that of the King of Naples at Portici. The Turkish keeper not being present, we witnessed none of those foolish familiarities which are usually exhibited at menageries between lions and their valets, the Arab deputy being possessed by a salutary fear of those ferocious animals. In the present state of Egypt, a menagerie to the Pasha would be a mere toy, which it would be criminal in him to possess. We were told, however (and there appeared to be some foundation for the report), that he was about to erect

an edifice for the reception of wild beasts : but I trust he has too much good sense to have been the originator of such a design ; which should rather be attributed, I imagine, to some of those hungry Europeans by whom he is constantly surrounded. The best thing he could do with these poor animals would be, to present them to some European prince who can better afford to trifle away his people's money.

LXIII. From this miserable exhibition we ascended into the citadel ; and, on entering the great area which occupies its centre, were exceedingly pleased with the first *coup d'œil*. The façade of the palace, which, in design, approaches nearer than I could have expected to the European style of architecture, is adorned by a small light portico, with raised terrace, in the Oriental taste ; and in the front of what may be termed a wing (though it contains the principal apartments) there is another portico, with tall slender columns of elegant form and proportions. As it was our intention, in compliance with the practice of travellers, to be presented to Habib Effendi, the governor of Cairo, we ascended the principal flight of steps ; and, passing through the portico, and a long suite of spacious but rather plain apartments, filled with crowds of officers and persons assembled on public business, entered the audience chamber, where the principal dragoman and a number of attendants were waiting for the arrival of the governor. We were received politely, and invited to seat ourselves

on the divan ; while the dragoman, with that restless curiosity which distinguishes the Armenian, immediately commenced making inquiries respecting our professions and pursuits ; and I observed that, in order to effect his purpose, he adroitly contrived to mingle a considerable portion of flattery with his questions.

LXIV. The audience chamber, smaller in dimensions than that of Alexandria, is much more highly ornamented, both the walls and ceilings being richly adorned with arabesques of very elegant design. The various niches, or recesses, which break the uniformity of the wall, are likewise covered with small landscapes ; and both these little paintings, and those which ornament the roof, all representing rural objects (the green fields, the grove, the winding river, the sea-shore, with temples and ruins interspersed), are extremely well conceived, though executed in that stiff inanimate style which prevailed in Italy before the time of Giotto. In a large recess, at the bottom of the room, we observed the instruments for administering the torture : a small pole, with a loop of reddish cord suspended from the centre, for containing the feet ; and the koorbash, or whip of hippopotamus' hide, with which the strokes on the soles of the feet are given. Through the windows, which were partly hung with fine chintz curtains, we could command a magnificent view of the city and environs of Cairo.

LXV. It was not long before Habib Effendi arrived. He is a man somewhat advanced in years, with a cold savage look, but handsome. Yet, though possessing much finer features, you discover in his countenance nothing of that intelligence and energy which light up with interest the face of Mohammed Ali. He is calm, quiet, respectable ; but there is a feebleness in his eye incompatible with great powers of mind. Our conversation with him, if conversation it could be called, was perfectly common-place. He put a great number of questions, but none which denoted acuteness or capacity ; and, long before he terminated his inquiries, I was impatient to take my leave. While this dull scene was enacting, the rightful heir to the throne of the Hejaz, a lineal descendant of the Prophet, taken prisoner by the Pasha, and detained in Egypt as a hostage, entered the audience chamber, and took his seat on the divan. He appeared to be engaged in conversation with the governor, but constantly cast a curious, inquiring look upon us. His complexion was very dark, almost black ; his features sharp, singular, unprepossessing ; his figure short and undignified. He was dressed in green, the livery of the Prophet's descendants ; but his turban was of a different colour. The governor, to do him justice, was exceedingly obliging, and readily granted us permission to see both the palace and the harem ; that is, as much of the harem as could be viewed without encroaching upon the parts actually occupied by the ladies.

LXVI. Taking our leave of His Excellence, we proceeded to visit the curiosities included within the walls of the citadel. Previous to this, however, the *kawass* conducted us to the terrace of the palace, which commands one of the noblest and most extensive views in the world. Here the eye, almost at a single glance, takes in the whole of the city of Cairo, with its innumerable domes and minarets, its squares and public places, its walls, and gates, and groves, and gardens, and battlements ; and those vast melancholy suburbs, — the cemeteries, — whither the gay and giddy Caireens, when the dream of life is over, retire to their eternal abodes. A little beyond, winding its way through the richest valley of Africa, was the bountiful Nile, whose broad surface glittered in the morning sun like a sheet of molten silver. On the right hand were the Tombs of the Khalifs, Boolak, and the site of Heliopolis ; behind us, the sterile ridges of Mokattam ; to the left, the spacious plain where once stood Babylon, Troia, Acanthus, and Memphis, cities which, excepting in the pages of history, have left no certain traces of their existence. Farther still, and beyond the reach of the inundation, were the Pyramids of Ghizeh, Sakkarah, Abousir, and Dashour, skirting the boundless expanse of the Libyan desert, whose dun, dismal colour seemed to be diffused over every thing on both sides of the river ; for, in this interminable landscape, the fields, groves, and gardens of the valley appeared like mere specks of verdure in an ocean of sand and rock and water. Directly under the palace windows was

a large open space, in which several regiments of the Pasha's military slaves were performing their evolutions, marching, charging, firing, and the other operations of war.

LXVII. Returning into the palace, we visited the mint, a wretched establishment, where we found a few Arab workmen employed in hammering out four-piastre pieces (gold coins, value one shilling) on clumsy little anvils. The great wheel, turned by bullocks, by which the machinery had formerly been put in motion, was fast crumbling to decay; but the Pasha, we were told, had recently received from England a new and splendid coining apparatus. During my voyage into Nubia, M. D'Arcet, a young Frenchman in the Pasha's service, was employed in making several experiments at the mint, which were witnessed by several gentlemen; one of whom, on my return from the upper country, furnished me with the following account of them:—"On the 10th of January," he observes, "I accompanied the French Consul and M. D'Arcet to witness some experiments which the latter was about to make with his new reverberatory furnace. This furnace, erected by the chemist's own hands, was intended to supersede the old Arab mode of melting, which was with difficulty effected by a large pair of bellows, worked by six robust men, besides several attendants for the fire, &c. M. D'Arcet melted four thousand five hundred *dirhems* of silver (the residue of the stamping operation), in one hour and a quarter, with

twenty *okes* * of charcoal. The same weight of silver, in ingots, could have been melted in fifteen minutes, with four or five okes of charcoal. In another experiment, the furnace, at various times, was charged with only ten okes of charcoal, which melted five hundred dirhems of silver cuttings, as above; and, after the experiment, there remained two okes of charcoal. The silver, being melted, was run into rectangular moulds, about ten inches long, one inch broad, and one eighth of an inch in thickness. These moulds were made in a box of sand, with a long knife; which, having been rubbed over with a little oil, was plunged into the sand, and then drawn carefully out. This beautiful process, the invention of the Orientals, excited the admiration of the French chemist, who expressed his intention of introducing it into France; where, to reduce the silver to this shape, the metal, in bars, is run under heavy rollers, until reduced to the necessary length, breadth, and thickness." I may here remark, that the currency of Egypt passes for *thirty-three and one third* more than its real value; that is, the *kheri*, or nine-piastre piece, which has been assayed at Genoa and Paris, is worth only six piastres.

LXVIII. From the mint we proceeded to the celebrated "Well of Joseph," as it is called, excavated by the great Saladin. Though we had with us a kawass, or officer of the governor, we experienced

* An *oke* is about two pounds and three quarters.

some difficulty in gaining admittance; a difficulty which was satisfactorily accounted for, when we had descended into the well. The entrance to this great work,—which is far more useful than magnificent, and has little in it, more than a great coal-pit, to strike the imagination,—is as mean and obscure as the entrance into a cellar. Each person here kindled a small wax taper, to light him in the descent, after which we all followed the footsteps of the guide. The well is of a square form, cut perpendicularly in the solid rock to the depth of about 270 feet. A little more than half way down, it widens into a spacious chamber, containing a large deep cistern, and the wheel, turned by a cow, which draws up the series of small earthen pots (attached to a rope as in a common *sakia*) by which the cistern is filled. A similar apparatus at the top fills the cistern which supplies the citadel. A narrow staircase, hewn out in the rock, winds round the well, from top to bottom, with so easy a descent, that you might almost ride down on horseback; on assback you certainly might. In fact, the cow, or bullock, which turns the wheel below, descends this staircase, which resembles a macadamised road, though there seem formerly to have been steps. At short intervals cut in the rock, there are several large windows for the purpose of admitting light, and to enable those descending the staircase to look out into the well; and these windows, except that they are much larger and lower, considerably resemble those in the greater galleries of the Simplon. When we had reached the great

chamber, or half-way house, our guide related to us the ostensible reason,—a desire to be bribed is the real one,—why so much difficulty is now experienced in obtaining permission to descend. About five years ago, a man was murdered in that very chamber, where his body being discovered, our *cicerone* himself had been suspected of the deed, and cast into prison; but, having remained twenty-one days in confinement, and no proofs of his guilt appearing,—perhaps none were sought,—he was liberated. The murdered man, an Armenian, had gone down with a sum of money about him; and the spot where the body had been found was pointed out to us, perhaps by the man who had hidden it there. On the same side of the gallery we were shown a large fissure in the rock, now walled up, to which another legend is appended. Two or three years ago, the cow employed in turning the water-wheel, on being liberated from her task in the evening, squeezed herself into this fissure, and, wandering away into some dark unexplored passage, entirely disappeared. One of the poor Arabs, more venturous than his companions, taking a lamp in his hand, entered in search of her, but was never more heard of. Twelve days they awaited his return; but at the expiration of that period, giving him up for lost, they walled up the cavern, thus cutting off all chance of his escape from this Stygian gloom. Perhaps he fell, by some oblique descent, into the well below, and they may now be drawing water from among his bones. The water-wheels, pots, ropes, &c. had an extremely antique and

dilapidated appearance ; and, if much used, would undoubtedly fall to pieces. But the excavation itself is a splendid work, and well worthy of the chivalrous sultan who executed it.

LXIX. Returning to the palace, we visited the apartments appropriated to the use of the Translation Committee, which is under the direction of a Frenchman and an Armenian, both of whom received us very politely. A number of young scribes, of various countries, were squatting about the rooms on divans and carpets, translating books or documents, or interpreting them to secretaries. The greater number, perhaps the whole of these young men, were Christians; or, if there were any Mohammedans among them, they were far from being rigid Islamites, as may be inferred from the following dialogue, which was interpreted to me by one of the interlocutors. A *fakir*, or beggar, resembling the *Yoghi* or *Sanyasi* of the Hindoos, walking into the apartment, began, in the usual way, to beg.

Fakir. There is no God but God ! Bestow on me a trifle for the sake of God !

Seeing they took no notice of him, he approached nearer, and pointing up to heaven with his forefinger, said :—

God smileth on the face of the whole earth. God hath given you corn and wool. I pray you, give me some of what he hath bestowed on you : and may God then take you by the hand !

Kalavagi. (A Greek, I suspect.) Putting up

first three fingers, and then one, said : — There are three, and yet only One.

Aroutin Effendi. Well, but why do you not work to be like myself? You would then have no occasion to beg.

Fakir. I have forsaken the world, in order to devote myself to the greatest service of God; and we live by his permission. It is written !

Aroutin Effendi. A great deal of nonsense has been written. If we all followed your example, who would there be to weave cloth to conceal our nakedness ?

Fakir (with emphasis). Some write, some draw the sword, and others guide the plough. There are also some to pray for others, and I am one of them. Give me a trifle !

Aroutin Effendi (smoking a pipe). Yes; but now I buy *Gebeli* (the best Syrian tobacco), and with the money which I pay the tobacconist, he purchases corn for himself and children. But you pray for me, and I pray for you.

Youssouff Effendi. If your prayers procure me good from God, will God do *you* good directly from himself, or through my money ?

Fakir. God rewards charity. Charity is necessary towards salvation. God so wrote to our Prophet : — “ *La illah, ul Allah, wa Mohammed rasouli llahi !* ” *

Stephan Effendi. Our Fakirs tell us the same

* “ There is no God but God ; and Mohammed is the prophet of God.”

thing. You call our Fakirs *giours*, and they call you *infidels*. Whom are we to believe?

Fakir. *Issaoui* is also the Prophet of God. He told you the truth, but you crucified him. Do not Christians practise charity?

Kalavagi, rather warmly. *Issaoui* is the *only* Prophet. He is the Son of God: and because he has instructed us to be charitable, we are so to all the world, but we give the preference to our own priests, and do not consider it incumbent on us particularly to support Musulman priests and mendicants.

Fakir. Is not God above, the only God?

Kalavagi. He is the only God. But if you think, Sheïkh, that he will assist people who do nothing, but call on his name, go to the Said, far from men, and pigeons will come and bring you bread.

Youssouf Effendi. Why do not you go to the *Khasné* (treasury) for money, because you pray every day for Sultan Mohammed Ali?

Fakir, thunderstruck. What! Mohammed Pasha?—*I pray for Sultan Mahmood; may the Prophet cover him with the hem of his garment!*

LXX. We next proceeded to the printing-office, where the Cairo Gazette, in Arabic, is printed,—a small insignificant establishment, which would be no where remarkable but in such a country as Egypt. The *press*, the *tympan*s, the *galley*s, the *sticks*, the *balls*, &c. were all of a very inferior description, and the *forms* appeared to be made up, in a slovenly way, upon the press itself. There were but few com-

positors or pressmen at work ; but they all seemed rather expert and clever. The Arabic manuscripts, from which they were composing, written on one side only, were such as European composers rarely meet with—extremely legible, the lines being wide apart, and the interlineations and corrections very carefully made.

LXXI. Having passed through the apartments where the diplomatic scribes and secretaries were at work, we entered the council chamber, where we were introduced to the President, a merry old Turk, who laughed and chatted with amazing volubility. The council, of which he was the chief, consists of a number of individuals, public officers and government clerks, who assemble daily for the despatch of business. This is what, in Europe, has been denominated the Senate, or Representative Assembly, or Parliament of Egypt ; but it is a parliament of a very extraordinary kind. When the Pasha has any thing agreeable to do, he does it himself, without consulting this wretched council, who, he well knows, would not dare to entertain an opinion different from his ; but when application is made to him for money, or some favour is demanded, which it might be inexpedient to grant and imprudent to refuse, he suddenly feigns a high veneration for the authority of his council, refers the applicants to them, and while he imperiously directs their decisions, shifts off the odium upon their shoulders. Such is the parliament of Egypt.

LXXII. The next object of our curiosity was the harem. It will not, of course, be supposed that we saw the ladies ; it was an unusual favour to be allowed to enter at all into the female apartments ; to see the rooms in which they usually sit, and the divans from which they had just risen to make way for us. Crossing a large gravelled court, we entered a spacious hall, divided into compartments by many rows of elegant columns. A grand staircase of white marble conducted us to the principal apartment on the first floor, which was in the form of a Greek cross, large, lofty, tastefully ornamented, with numerous noble windows commanding nearly the same prospect as the terrace near the divan. The drawing-room, where, when in Cairo, the Pasha usually sits, surrounded by his family, was finely matted, and furnished with a soft and beautiful divan of scarlet cloth, with a long blue silk fringe hanging to the floor, running round three sides of the apartment. A recess adorned with carved ornaments, and slender columns with gilded capitals, occupied the bottom of the room. Arabesques and landscapes, executed in the same style as those in the audience chamber, adorned the ceiling of this spacious apartment, which would be admired even in London. The bedchambers, offices, &c. were neat, and scrupulously clean, but contained nothing remarkable.

LXXIII. In a large apartment in this part of the palace we were shown the Pasha's children — to *me* the most interesting sight of all — a sight which made

my heart leap, and caused my thoughts to fly away many thousand miles in an instant. While passing through a small antechamber we saw a young Máma-look — a Greek or Georgian boy, about nine years old, beautiful as an angel. His exquisite little mouth, his fair complexion, his dark eyes, and finely arched eyebrows, his smooth lofty forehead and clustering ringlets — every thing conspired to enhance his loveliness. Any where else I should have supposed it to have been a girl in disguise. We found the three young princes sitting side by side on a carpet at the farther end of the room, busily engaged with their writing lessons, under the direction of a master ; and when we were presented to them they looked up surprised and wonderstricken, like children to whom such things were not familiar, and cast many furtive inquiring glances at each other, but did not speak. They must have been by three different mothers, as their ages were nearly the same. The one who, if there was any difference, appeared to be the youngest, may have been about five years old : he was dressed in green ; and there was a pride and fire in his eye which strikingly distinguished him from his brethren. They were accompanied in their studies by a number of other boys, all under twelve years old ; and their governor, a grave venerable Turk, seemed pleased to exhibit his pupils, but did not run into the common fault of flattering them by extravagant praise.

LXXIV. I had been dissuaded from demanding permission to enter the old mosque in the citadel,

from an apprehension of being refused ; but, while the rest of the party were otherwise engaged, I walked up to the door, where I found two soldiers, a negro on one side, and an Arab on the other, both looking good tempered ; I therefore, — the interpreter being absent, — inquired by signs whether I might go in, and they replied, in the same language and with smiles, that I might. So I stepped over the threshold, and found myself in a spacious Mohammedan place of worship. It was a hypæthral building, consisting of a neatly paved area, and a series of arcades, resembling the colonnades of a monastery, which extended all round. The minaret, which towers far above every other part of the citadel, is remarkable for the chasteness of its design, which is exceedingly light and elegant, the turret, galleries, and fairy cupola harmonising finely together. On either side of the doorway was an antique column. The one on the left hand was surmounted by a curious capital, which could be referred to no order of architecture ; but that on the right belonged to the Corinthian order, and the foliage was most rich and delicately executed.

LXXV. Within the strong and lofty walls of the citadel are found the scanty remains of Saladin's palace — a few upright columns, which appear to have supported the roof of a hall ; a gateway of heavy Saracenic architecture ; and a portion of the massive wall. All these, however, will speedily disappear to make room for modern buildings. An elegant fountain, erected by the Pasha, already occu-

pies a part of the site of the ancient palace ; and in the vicinity is a bazār for the accommodation of the inmates of the fortress.

LXXVI. There was one thing which Habib Effendi hesitated to grant us, — an *order* to see the tombs of the Pasha's family ; but as we knew that an English lady had recently been admitted, we refrained from pressing the point, and proceeded thither without one. These tombs are situated in the midst of the great cemetery, to the south of the modern city, which consequently must be in great part traversed in approaching them. No burying-ground, that I have seen, ever appeared so admirably adapted to be the abode of death. The simple grave-stone, the tomb, the cenotaph, the mausoleum, rise here amid the desolation of the desert. Life, and every thing partaking of it, seem almost impertinent in this barren region. The edifices which men have here constructed to protect the ashes of their fellows, exhibit, nevertheless, both taste and imagination, and form a city of tombs, which the stranger, who has no child or friend sleeping there, may wander through for hours with pleasure. We remarked in riding along numerous light cupolas supported on slender columns, or on four Saracenic arches of most airy and tasteful construction ; simple pillars surmounted by the turban, and more solid and spacious domes resting on massive walls. The pillars, in many of these tombs, are of white marble, and, together with the cupolas which they sustain, so chaste and uncumbrous in their

proportions, that they might almost seem of Grecian origin, and recal to our mind those fairy chapels of Dian, which the traveller beheld of old peeping forth among the oaks and laurels of Tempé. Here and there we saw family burying-grounds, enclosed with walls ; but the general cemetery is open on all sides. In the midst of these tombs stands one solitary house, in which were heard the sound of music and the voices of the Almé. It was said that they were celebrating a wedding ; and some of the girls looked out of the windows with laughing eyes, appearing to invite us to enter ; but we were hastening to a different spectacle.

LXXVII. On reaching the enclosed space in which stood the tombs of the Pasha's family, we found the keeper of the grounds seated beside an elegant mausoleum, with a stone canopy supported on four columns. Of him we asked and obtained permission to enter. Over the graves an edifice divided into several apartments has been erected. The floor was covered with rich Persian carpets ; the windows were darkened with green curtains ; a softened light entered from above. The tombs themselves are of marble, and consist of a kind of sarcophagus superimposed upon an oblong square basement of sandstone. A short pillar, surmounted by a turban sculptured in marble, is placed at the head, and at the foot another. These sepulchral columns, as well as the sarcophagi, are covered with Arabic or Turkish inscriptions, in letters of gold, which, intermingled

with flourishes, and various fanciful devices, produce a very pleasing effect. Some of our party, however, considered the whole to be in bad taste, and preferred many of the tombs in *Père la Chaise*. But I know of no monument in that cemetery, excepting that of Eloisa and Abelard, — which, I admit, interests the heart more strongly, though for reasons totally independent of the architecture, and that of the Countess Demidoff, — which could be at all compared with these. The tomb of Toussoun Pasha, an ardent young man, who is said to have resembled Raphael in the manner of his death, was covered with withered flowers. That of his mother occupied, not many paces distant, the most distinguished place; and those of the other members of the family lay ranged around — elegant, tasteful, melancholy, in the midst of their golden ornaments. The effect of the whole, at least upon my mind, was highly solemn. Hither, on the anniversary of the death of each inmate, their female relations repair to pray and weep; and as often as they are seized with melancholy they do the same thing. Various stone basements are erected in the neighbourhood of these tombs, ready to receive the sarcophagi of such other members of the family as death shall strike out of the lists of the living.

CHAPTER VI.

MANNERS OF THE SANTONS — THE EGYPTIAN SWALLOW — COLD OF THE NIGHTS — NARROWNESS OF THE STREETS — CLEANLINESS OF THE ARABS OF CAIRO — MOUNDS OF RUBBISH — VISIT TO THE PYRAMIDS — OLD CAIRO — BEAUTIFUL PROSPECT ON THE RIVER — RICHNESS AND MAGNIFICENCE OF THE PLAIN OF MEMPHIS — LOVELY PALM GROVES — SUBLIMITY OF THE PYRAMIDS — THE BEDOUIN GUIDES — THE SPHTNX — TEMPLES OF VENUS — ANCIENT TRAVELLERS — ASCENT OF THE GREAT PYRAMID — VIEW FROM THE SUMMIT — DEATH OF MAZE — DESCEND INTO THE INTERIOR — THE KING'S CHAMBER — THE QUEEN'S CHAMBER — PYRAMID OF CEPHRENES — RETURN TO CAIRO.

Sunday, Dec. 2.

LXXVIII. LOCKE, discoursing, if I remember rightly, concerning our notions of modesty, in his book on *Innate Ideas*, adduces, as an argument against the popular opinion, the example of the Mohammedan Santons of Egypt, seen by Baumgarten sitting naked among the sands.* Whatever our judgment respect-

* Many of the tales related in Egypt of these Santons, which appear to be well authenticated, will not bear to be repeated in a modern language. Baumgarten, who wrote in a dialect familiar with such things, describes as follows their character and manners, which to this day remain the same: — “Mos est Mahometistis, ut eos qui amentes et sine ratione sunt, pro sanctis colant et venerentur. Insuper et eos, qui cum diu vitam egerint inquinatissimam, voluntariam demum pœnitentiam et paupertatem, sanctitate venerandos deputant. Ejusmodi verò genus hominum libertatem quandam effrenam habent: domos quas volunt intrandi, edendi, bibendi, et, quod majus est, concumbendi: ex quo concubitu, si proles secula fuerit, sancta similiter habetur. His ergo hominibus dum vivunt, magnos exhibent honores: mortuis verò

ing the philosophical theory may be, the example is still exhibited daily at Cairo. On the very evening of my arrival, I saw, jostling through crowds of men and women, a Santon, wholly naked, except that a piece of ragged blanketing was thrown over the shoulders. Covered with filth, squalid, haggard, emaciated, with eyes flashing forth the fires of insanity, he had in all respects the look of a wild beast. No doubt many of these vagabonds adopt, through mere sloth, this easy mode of living ; but when the Pasha shall set himself in earnest about the civilisation of Egypt, he must begin by sending the whole of this race to the madhouse or the galleys, together with that still more nefarious crew, with perfumed tresses and effeminate costume, who now offend the eye, and disgrace, in the streets of Cairo, the very name of *man*.

LXXIX. The breast of the common swallow, in Egypt, as Sir Frederic Henniker has already observed, is quite *red*, and not white, as with us. Does this bird form a peculiar species, not migratory ? Denon found in this country a kind of swallow of a grey colour, which was not, he conjectured, a bird of passage ; though, even so far back as the time of Anacreon, the swallow was supposed to forsake Greece with the summer, to spend the cold months about Memphis

vel templa vel monumenta extruunt amplissima, eosque contingere ac sepelire maximæ fortunæ ducant loco." — *Peregrinatio*, &c. p. 73. And such, in general, are the Sheikhs, whose tombs, in all Mohammedan countries, are visited as holy places.

and the Nile.* Yet the winter nights, as most travellers have observed, are exceedingly cold in Lower Egypt; and indeed, when you reflect upon the great heat of the days, the keenness of the air, all the while that the sun is below the horizon, is almost incredible. Yesterday the sun was as hot as in July in Burgundy: towards evening a cloak was quite necessary; as was also an additional covering on the bed at night. Every where in the shade it is cold even by day, and there is a strong breeze constantly stirring, which increases the sharpness of the atmosphere, and which, even in the sunshine, renders it prudent to go warmly clothed. To the neglect of this precaution may be attributed many of those dangerous attacks of fever and dysentery which travellers frequently experience in Egypt. In building their cities, the Orientals generally, but particularly the Egyptians, have been greatly influenced by the above peculiarity in their climate. Their streets are winding and narrow, as in such countries they must be, to render the cities habitable; for by this contrivance they are protected by night from the extreme cold, and from the intolerable heat by day. For the same reason it is an advantage that the houses are lofty, and almost meet at the top. We observe, moreover, that in the bazārs and streets of business, where the inhabitants chiefly assemble, mats are extended from house to house, wholly to exclude the sun, which in summer

* Χειμῶνι δ' εἰς ἄφαντος
 Ἡ Νεῖλον ἥ' πρὶ Μέμφιν.

is not to be endured from eight o'clock in the morning until five in the afternoon. By these means, however, there is always, in the streets of Cairo, a fine cool air stirring — at least at this season of the year ; and when you enter its gates from the desert, where the wind sometimes is like the blast of a furnace, your whole frame is instantaneously refreshed, and you bless the architect who invented narrow streets.

Monday, Dec. 3.

LXXX. I have not been many days in Cairo, and yet I discover that many changes have taken place in its appearance even since the descriptions of the very latest travellers were written. The streets, formerly disgustingly filthy, are now remarkable in general for their cleanliness, being all swept three times a day. Ibrahim Pasha, a few years ago, issued an order commanding every householder to cause the space before his own house to be swept as above. The dust is collected into heaps, and four hundred carts, drawn by bullocks, are employed in conveying it out of the city. All the dust thus collected is passed through a kind of sieve, and the straw, leaves of vegetables, and every sort of combustible matter, are used for fuel. The remainder, when carried out of the city, is not thrown, as formerly, into heaps, but is employed in filling up the pits, hollows, and inequalities which are found in the environs. In the meanwhile all the old mounds of rubbish are clearing away at a

vast expense, and the land thus gained is laid out in gardens and olive plantations.

Tuesday, Dec. 4.

LXXXI. This being the day fixed upon for our first visit to the Pyramids, we rose several hours before day, and, having breakfasted, mounted our donkeys, and set out in the dark. Our janissary, likewise riding on an ass, preceded us through the streets, and, in compliance with the orders of government, an Arab with a lantern ran before to light us along. It had rained hard during the night, and the ground was so slippery that two or three of our party fell down with their beasts before we had proceeded the length of a single street. The muez-zins from the minarets of the various mosques were summoning the people to their devotions : — “ Arise, ye faithful, and pray ! Prayer is better than sleep ! ” And these sounds, descending through the air at that calm and still hour, before dawn had lighted up the earth, before any other indication of life was abroad, had a thrilling solemn effect, nearly allied to piety. The streets of Cairo, traversed at such a time, present a curious appearance : no lamps, no movement, no sign of inhabitants, but the Arab porters and gate-keepers slumbering in their cloaks on the bare earth.

LXXXII. After traversing a large portion of the city, followed by troops of savage dogs, we emerged into the country, where we found, even thus early, the labourers of Ibrahim Pasha employed in

levelling and carrying away the mounds of rubbish which encumber the environs of Cairo. In approaching *Masr el Atikeh*, we saw on our left the Great Aqueduct, which conveys the water of the Nile to the citadel. *A propos* of this aqueduct a very absurd story is told. The architect, they say, in constructing the steep winding passage which leads to the summit, forgot half his design, and made it too narrow to admit the oxen that were to work the water-wheels; in consequence of which a number of calves were carried up, and kept until they acquired the necessary size above! But how the wheels were turned while the calves were growing, the story sayeth not. Another story, which may be better founded, is, that the King of England, a few years ago, presented the Pasha with a complete hydraulic apparatus for raising the water of the Nile into this aqueduct, which was utterly spoiled by the engineer employed in setting it up.

LXXXIII. Having passed through a portion of *Masr el Atikeh*, or old Cairo, we arrived about sunrise at the ferry, and embarked upon the Nile. The prospect, as we moved across the river, was truly magnificent. The long lines of white buildings on the eastern bank, the tower of the Nilometer, the groves and gardens on the island of Rhoudah, the village of Ghizeh, flanked by palm woods, glimpses of the Libyan desert between the trees, the lofty summits of the Pyramids, the broad bosom of the river enlivened by numerous sails, the partially clouded sky illumined

by the first rays of the sun,—all these elements, harmonising beautifully together, formed a panorama of incomparable interest. But the air was exceedingly keen and cold, so that our thoughts were often diverted from the landscape to the means of protecting ourselves from the wind. Arriving at Ghizeh, on the western bank, we remounted, and pushed on hastily towards *Sakkiet-Mekkah*; the plain which we now traversed being intersected in various directions by canals, and partly covered by broad sheets of water, the remains of the inundation, between which, in many places, lay our road, over slippery causeways, or banks of earth, barely wide enough to admit of one person's riding along them at a time. Large flights of ibises, as white as snow, continually kept hovering about us, or alighted on the lakes, while several other kinds of water-fowl, of brilliant plumage, were scattered here and there in flocks. A great portion of the plain was covered with forests of date palms, of magnificent growth, planted in regular lines, and springing up from a level carpet of grass or young corn of the brightest green. Interspersed among these woods, and numerous smaller groves of tamarisks and acacias, were the villages, mosques, and sheikhs' tombs; not unpleasing objects when beheld by a cheerful eye. Here and there were fields of ripe *dhourra sefi*, a species of Indian corn of prodigious powers of increase, which grows to a great height, and forms a principal ingredient in the food of the Arabs. Hamilton reckoned on one ear of this corn three thousand grains; and a lady, who frequently made the ex-

periment in the Thebaid, constantly found between eighteen hundred and two thousand.

LXXXIV. As, owing to the quantity of water which still remained from the inundation, the pathway turned in various directions, and proceeded in a very circuitous manner, we often seemed to be moving towards the east, and caught a view of the Mokattam mountains: presently, the pyramids of Sakkarah, Abousir, and Dashour became visible in the distance, towards the south; but though they are many in number, I could discover no more than seven. The appearance of the country continued exceedingly fine; and the rocks and grey sand hills of the desert, which bounded our view towards the west, seemed only to enhance by contrast the splendour of the intervening landscape. It would appear to be mere prejudice to suppose that a fine level country, like Egypt, with a surface diversified by all the accidents of wood and water, rustic architecture, flocks and herds, and hemmed in by rocks and sands eternally barren, must necessarily be insipid and unpicturesque. The landscape now before me was beautiful; and there are artists in England who, from such materials, and without overstepping the modesty of nature, could create pictures to rival the softest scene among the works of Claude. The date palm itself is a lovely object — far more lovely than I have ever seen it represented by the pencil; and when seen in its native country, relieved against a deep blue sky, or

against the yellow sands of the desert, with a herd of buffaloes, a long string of laden camels, or a troop of Bedouins passing under it, lance in hand, it is a perfect picture. But when we have before us whole forests of these trees, of all sizes, from ten to one hundred feet in height, intermingled with mimosas, acacias, tamarisks, and Egyptian sycamores, more noble, if possible, than the oak, disposed in arched echoing walks, with long green vistas, glimpses of cool shady lakes, villages, mosques, pyramids, the whole overcanopied by a sky of stainless splendour, and glowing beneath the pencil of that arch-painter, the sun, nothing seems to be wanting, but genius, to discover the elements of most magnificent landscapes.

LXXXV. The pyramids themselves, though towering far above every thing around, did not yet disclose all their vastness, there being no object near by which to judge by comparison of their magnitude. Standing alone in the desert, which they exactly resemble in colour, they appeared to belong to and form a part of it ; but, long before we approached them, they seemed near, quite at hand, and the intervening space a field or two, over which we should pass in a few minutes. We rode on for another hour ; and though they certainly appeared to have increased in dimensions, there was no very striking difference in their aspect : yet we could see that we had still some space to traverse. Another hour : the pyramids had sensibly increased in bulk ; the sun occasionally shone upon them, and gilded their peaks, and the shadows

of the clouds, as they passed along, travelled over them as over the face of a mountain. At length we crossed the Bahr Youssof, emerged from the cultivated country, and entered upon the desert, where our animals sank deep at every step into the sand, which stretched away in mound and valley interminably towards the left ; while flocks of plovers, quails, ibises, &c. rested upon the fields on the right, or skimmed along the atmosphere, tempting our sportsmen. A considerable space of desert land, interspersed with small patches of a kind of prickly plant which is eaten by the camel, still remained to be crossed. We now saw a number of Bedouins hastening towards us over the sand, to offer their services as guides ; the greater number of whom were tall, muscular, clean-limbed young men, in many cases, handsome ; and they all appeared lively and good humoured. There were, however, far too many of them : but though they were so informed, and positively assured that they would not be all employed, not one of the number would relinquish the hope of earning a piastre, and the whole party, laughing and chattering, ran bounding along over the heavy sand, with as light and springy a step as if it had been a smooth gravel walk.

LXXXVI. At length we entered the hollow sandy valley, at the foot of the pyramids, in which the sphynx is buried, all but the head. Three noble spreading trees, nourished by a hidden fountain, afford an agreeable shade in the centre of this burning hollow ; and there, should I ever revisit the spot, I

would pitch my tent during my stay. The features of the sphynx, whatever their beauty or merit may formerly have been, are now so time-worn and mutilated by violence, that they can scarcely be said to represent the human countenance; but, from the outline of the face, no man, not under the influence of some visionary system, could ever, I think, conclude with Volney, that the physiognomy was that of a negro. Were the whole of this hollow cleared of the sand which now encumbers it, and the land restored to cultivation, as it might be without any very extraordinary expense, the sphynx, in spite of the injuries of time, might once more be a sublime object; as it is, the greater part of the interest which it inspires is traceable to the imagination.

LXXXVII. The rocky eminence upon which Cheops and his successors erected their vast pyramidal temples to VENUS, rises about one hundred feet above the level of the Egyptian plain, and has now been covered, by the action of the west wind, with sandy mounds, various in form and height, which cause it to exhibit a ruggedness of aspect altogether congruous with our ideas of the Libyan waste. When we had gained the summit of this height, and cleared the hillocks which at first obstructed our view, all the sublimity of the pyramids burst at once upon our minds. The tallest among our companions, standing at their feet, were scarcely so high as a single layer of stones; and when I drew near, and beheld the mighty basis, the vast breadth, the prodigious solidity, the steep

acclivity of the sides, misleading the eye, which appears to discover the summit among the clouds, while the kite and the eagle, wheeling round and round, far, far, aloft, were yet not so high as the apex, I secretly acknowledged the justice of the popular opinion which enumerates these majestic structures among the Wonders of the World. Here, then, after many disappointments, and hopes frequently deferred, I at length stood, realising, by the indulgence of Providence, one of the long cherished schemes of my youth. Nor did the pleasure fall short a jot of the measure of delight promised at a distance by hope. Genius, of the first order, had reared those Titanian temples, and so thoroughly did it succeed in embodying its vast conceptions, that men the most illiterate, and of the grossest apprehension, contemplating these mysterious fanes, have their minds penetrated and warmed into admiration by a spark of enthusiasm, an involuntary consciousness of the sublime. Less than these it was impossible that I should feel. Pythagoras, Plato, Herodotus, Germanicus had gone, of old, on the same pilgrimage; and though I may never share their renown, not one of them all, on the spot, could have experienced more pleasurable emotions, or sympathised more earnestly with the unknown architect in the glorious triumph of his intellect. Men, ambitious of the reputation of philosophers, have declaimed in all ages about the inutility of the pyramids. But can any thing be called useless by which the mind is elevated and aggrandised? which rouses and fires the imagination with ideas of diutur-

nity, and grandeur, and power? What are we, divested of the pleasures furnished by the imagination? Why has Art, in all ages, mimicked the creative energy of Nature? Is it not that we may remove from ourselves that sense of insignificance, which is inspired by the feebleness of our physical power, by the exertion of another power, in which it would appear, from many of the works of men, that we are not deficient! However this may be, I thanked Cheops, Cephrenes, and Mycerinus for creating a marvel in the regions of art, and thus adding, whatever may be pretended to the contrary, to the sum of permanent human enjoyment. If in the execution of their designs they oppressed their subjects, the fact is to be lamented: but how many modern princes, with equal recklessness of what they inflict upon the people, wantonly engage in wars which still more lavishly and uselessly exhaust their treasuries, without producing any thing for the instruction or gratification of posterity?

LXXXVIII. Proceeding with our guides towards the entrance, which is the common point of departure, whether we mount to the top, or descend into the interior, we each selected two Arabs, to aid us in running along the narrow ledges, and passing over the dangerous projections and angles, and forthwith began to ascend. At first, it must be owned, “the way seemed difficult and steep to climb;” but, as you proceed, and rise from one of the *βαμίδαι* (as the steps are aptly termed by Herodotus) to another, you gradually become familiar with your position, and

learn to be bold. Our track lay along the north-eastern angle, where time, and the irresistible storms which sweep across the desert, have tumbled down many of the stones; and thus made, at various heights, resting-places for the traveller. And, indeed, such resting-places are exceedingly necessary; for the exertion and labour of the ascent, with the impatience which animates most persons on such occasions, soon put you out of breath, and make you glad to sit down, from time to time, to contemplate what you have already achieved. Looking upward, along the face of the pyramid, the steps, like those of the visionary ladder of Padan-aram, seem to ascend to the clouds; and, if you turn your eyes below, the height looks dizzy, prodigious, fearful, and the people at the bottom appear to be shrunk to dwarfs. The prospect of the country enlarges at every step; the breadth of the pyramid sensibly diminishes; and, at length, after considerable toil, you find yourself on that small table-land which vandalism, or the premature death of the original builder, has left upon the top of the Great Pyramid. A number of large blocks of an unfinished layer occupy a portion of the square area, and serve the traveller (or, at least, served me) as a desk to write on. They are covered with the names of innumerable visitors of all nations, cut deep in the stone; but I saw none to which any great celebrity is attached.

LXXXIX. It was now about mid-day; and the sun, entirely free from clouds, smote upon the

pyramid with great vehemence : so that, what with the warmth produced by the labour of the ascent, and the ardour of its rays, we experienced a heat resembling that of an oven. The air was clear, and our view unimpeded on all sides. To the south, scattered in irregular groups, were the Pyramids of Sakkarah, Abousir, and Dashour, glittering in the sun, like enormous tents ; and appearing, from their number, and the confusion of their arrangement, to extend to an unknown distance into the desert. On the west was the wilderness of Libya, stretching away to the edge of the horizon ; arid, undulating, boundless, apparently destitute of the very principle of vegetation, an eternal prey to the sand-storm and the whirlwind. A flock of gazelles, or a troop of Bedouins, scouring across the plain, would have relieved its monotony ; but neither the one nor the other appeared. In the foreground, beneath our feet, the sand (which appeared of various colours, yellow, dusky brown, and gray) swelled into hillocks of very remarkable formation, like the nuclei of new pyramids. To the north and the east, the landscape presented a perfect contrast to this savage scenery : night and day are not more different : and, if the contests of Typhon and Osiris represented, symbolically, the struggles between the desert and the river — the one to nourish, the other to destroy — the gods were still there, drawn up in battle array against each other ; though the evil demon, alas ! had evidently long prevailed, and was daily curtailing the empire of his adversary. However, all that

remains of the valley of the Nile is luxuriantly covered with verdure and beauty : corn-fields, green meadows, woods of various growth and foliage, scattered villages, a thousand shining sheets of water, and, above all, the broad glittering stream of the Nile, spreading fertility and abundance on all sides, like a god. Beyond this were the white buildings of Cairo, Babylon, and Rhoudah, backed by the long lofty range of the Gebel Mokattam, reflecting the bright warm rays of the mid-day sun.

XC. We remained for some time on the summit of the pyramid, as if loth to quit the spot, admiring, with untiring delight, the extraordinary features of the landscape beneath : but it at length became necessary to descend. When I approached the edge of the platform, and looked down the steep rugged side of the pyramid (a slope of nearly eight hundred feet), I no longer wondered at the accident which caused the death of poor Maze ; who, as some persons in Egypt suppose, threw himself purposely down, from the same motive which impelled Eratostratus to destroy the temple of Diana at Ephesus. But the accident may very well be accounted for without this supposition : in fact, the wonder is, that such things should not frequently happen. Hasselquist, we know, failed twice in his attempt to reach the top : the first time, because he feared that the high wind, then blowing, would have hurled him down ; the second, because the steps had been so intensely heated by the sun, that they burned his feet through his boots.

We descended rapidly. I had an Arab on either hand, who actively assisted me, springing from step to step with the agility of a chamois. It was now that the height looked pernicious, the blocks on which we stood vast, and the labour that had piled them upon each other marvellous ; but we reached the bottom in perfect safety, in considerably less time than it had taken us to ascend.

XCI. We now prepared to descend into the interior chambers. The heat and closeness being very great within, we partly undressed, and leaving our superfluous garments at the entrance, each person took a lighted taper in his hand, and followed his Arab guide, who, accustomed to the place, crept down the sloping passages like a cat ; but raised in his progress such clouds of dust, that I considered myself fortunate in being the foremost of the party. The passage was entirely cased with slabs of oriental porphyry, finely polished, and so exquisitely fitted to each other as to seem but one piece. Having reached a certain depth, we climbed over a high slippery rock, overhanging the mouth of the well, and entered the adit leading to the King's Chamber. This narrow smooth corridor, which mounts with a steep ascent, is cased, like the former, with porphyry. We passed over the mouth of the entrance to the Queen's Chamber, which lies directly under that of the king. Notches cut in the pavement enabled us to fix our footsteps ; and, after groping along for a considerable time, through dust and heat, arrived at a level

passage of no great length, which led directly into the royal chamber.

XCII. Here our tapers, though numerous, at first seemed inadequate to the lighting up of the apartment; but our eyes by degrees began to pierce through the gloom, and to discover the form and dimensions of objects. The mysterious sarcophagus, which, in my opinion, was never meant to contain the bones of any mortal, is placed with its head towards the north, the sacred quarter towards which the fables and traditions of all ancient nations pointed as to the birth-place of their ancestors. It has been much injured, the cover has been removed, and it is more than half filled with dust and fragments of sandstone. In the southern wall of the apartment there is a small niche, which may have contained a mimic coffin during the celebration of the Mysteries; but it is now empty. The pavement is covered with dust. The walls are beautifully coated with square slabs of polished granite, exquisitely joined. The ceiling is formed of a number of blocks of stone, about three feet in breadth, which reach across the apartment, and being alternately of a lighter and darker grain, give the roof the appearance of being painted in broad stripes of different colours. We found the length of the apartment to be about thirty-nine feet, the breadth about eighteen, and the height about twenty-two. In the north-west corner there were two small square cavities sunk in the floor, and probably of great depth; but they

were now nearly filled up with dust. Their use we could not conjecture. Before we left this apartment, a small pistol was fired off. The sound, which seemed louder than that of a cannon, almost rent the drum of the ear ; and went on rolling through the pyramid, as if multiplied by a thousand echoes. Indeed, the interior of these mysterious structures doubtless contains innumerable undiscovered chambers and passages ; and, as I listened to the sound, it seemed to sink or mount from cavity to cavity, to rebound repeatedly from obstructing walls ; to divide, to be multiplied, and at length to die away in distant vaults. If this was fancy, it produced, at the time, all the effect of reality : and I am not sorry to find that the idea has likewise occurred to others, possessing the amplest means of giving extensive publicity to their opinions.* The queen's apartment, to which we now descended, is considerably smaller than that of the king ; and the ceiling rises to a point in the middle, like the inside of the roof of an European house. Being ignorant, when we left Cairo, that the Bedouins had destroyed the wooden staircase by which travellers used to ascend into what is commonly called " Davison's Chamber," we had come unprepared with a ladder, and our guides were unable to supply the deficiency. As, moreover, the greater part of the day was spent, it would have been too late to remedy the evil by searching for a ladder

* A writer in the Quarterly Review has advanced the same conjecture.

among the distant villages. In consequence, this part of our task was deferred until our return from Nubia ; when other circumstances, perhaps of greater importance, caused us to neglect it, as well as the descent into the *well*, where, in reality, there is nothing to be seen. The heat in the interior is very great. The big drops of perspiration stood upon our faces, like peas ; and, when we emerged into the open air, two heavy cloaks could scarcely enable us to bear the change of temperature, even in the sunshine.

XCIII. We dined in the rocky chambers in the eastern face of the hill ; after which I quitted the party, and returned alone to explore the numerous sepulchral chambers which here occupy the skirts of the desert. I found the whole surface of the ground, east of the pyramid of Cheops, strewed with Egyptian pebbles, or agates, of which I picked up several. I likewise took three small pieces of calcareous stone from the pyramid itself ; together with a little of the mortar, of a pale pink colour, in which the stones were embedded. Now the vast structure presented itself to my mind in all its grandeur. I stood by it alone. Neither noise, nor laughter, nor contests with the Bedouins disturbed me. No living thing was any where to be seen, save the eagle of the desert, which wheeled and floated in the sunshine, far aloft, towards the alpine summit. Below and all around were tombs, and absolute stillness. I wandered to the mouth of the second pyramid. The entrance,

like the other, is cased with beautiful porphyry; but, having no light, I could not descend into the interior.* The space between the two larger of these structures seems unquestionably to be traversed by covered passages; and, judging by the sound which the earth returned to my footsteps, I thought I could reckon at least four or five. When I had been here some time, I heard the shout of Arabs at a distance; and soon afterwards saw my guides running towards me across the sands, which here seem to be entirely formed of the crumbling particles of the pyramids. As what I had given them appeared liberal payment in their eyes, they were desirous of manifesting their gratitude by showing me a shorter way across the plain than the one by which we had come; and ran with much glee by the side of my donkey, until I requested them to return to their village.

XCIV. As the evening drew near, the air was richly scented by the odour of numerous bean-fields in full blossom. In recrossing the Nile from Ghizeh to Old Cairo, the scene was beautiful beyond description. The sun, just as we embarked on the river, was setting behind the pyramids and the desert; and the summits of the woods, the tombs, the minarets, and other lofty objects, were relieved against a sky of the richest hues. The firmament, on the edge of the horizon, was of a

* On our return from Nubia, when Monro and myself again visited the pyramids, we carefully examined the interior of that of Cephrenes, which on this occasion I could not.

deep tawny orange colour, which, growing paler as it ascended, appeared, a little higher, to change into a light green ; and this, again, in its turn, growing less and less intense towards the summit of the vast arch which it described, terminated in a lovely purple flush, which diffused its brilliance over the whole circle of the hemisphere. The moon, calmly rising in the east, shows its soft rays over a portion of the river ; while, on the other hand, the indescribably beautiful purple, and pink, and green, and gold of the sky, were reflected from the surface of the water, which, when slightly ruffled by the motion of the boat, or the dip of the oar, shone and glittered like a metallic sea. In the back ground, towards the east, the naked rocks of the *Gebel Mokattam* were painted with the most gorgeous hues by the setting sun, which seemed to convert its rude pinnacles into masses of lapis lazuli, turquoises, and amethysts. But, had I the pen of Milton or the pencil of Claude, I should despair of imparting to others a just conception of that sunset, which I never, but once in Upper Egypt, saw surpassed. It was quite dark when we reached Cairo.

CHAPTER VII.

PALACE OF AHMED PASHA—GARDENS OF SHOUBRA—BATH AND KIOSK—FOUR GIRAFFES—PASHA'S STUD—NEJDI HORSES—THE DONGOLA HORSE—MODE OF PICKETING HORSES AMONG THE ARABS.

Sunday, Dec. 9.

XCV. For several days I had been employed in making preparations for the voyage into Nubia, which being now completed, I again found leisure to return to the curiosities of Cairo. Among these I had often heard enumerated the palace of Ahmed Pasha, the present Governor of the Hejaz ; in consequence of which we this morning visited it. This palace, which has been recently erected, has the reputation of being the handsomest building in Cairo ; and, from all that I have seen, it appears well worthy of its renown. It consists of two stories, in each of which there is a vast hall in the form of a Greek cross ; and in the corners, which, in a square building, are created by this arrangement, the other apartments are situated. These rooms are all fitted up in an eminently striking and gorgeous style : the ceilings are covered with gilded arabesques, the walls and cornices with paintings ; and the principal apartments are adorned with clustered columns, surmounted by gilded capitals, with elegant niches or recesses, and furnished with

the most superb divans of crimson velvet, skirted with gold fringe a foot deep. In the harem, the divans, cushions, &c. are of light flowered satin, with gold borders of great depth. The sleeping apartments of the women, — which, the ladies being in the old palace, we were allowed to visit, — were exceedingly light and airy, and furnished with handsome glass windows. The finishing, the locks, fastenings, &c. were of inferior workmanship. In one of the great halls we saw two beautiful fountains: the one, fashioned in the wall, descending like a series of shells, sculptured in marble, and increasing in size from the top downwards, poured its sparkling waters into two serpentine channels, cut in the marble pavement, and containing the figures of various species of fish, which communicated with the second fountain. This, however, was merely a large marble basin, sunk in the floor, with a column of water rising and falling in its centre.

XCVI. In the afternoon we rode to Shoubra, where Mohammed Ali has a country-house, of no very striking appearance; and gardens, which are certainly among the finest I have any where seen. They cover, perhaps, thirty or forty acres of ground, and are laid out in squares, parallelograms, triangles, &c., divided from each other by long straight alleys, formed, in many cases, with a hard kind of cement; in others, paved with pebbles of different colours, disposed in mosaics, like those in the grottoes of the Isola Bella, and representing various objects of nature

or art, as plants, flowers, sabres, &c. The different compartments of the garden are surrounded by railings surmounting a broad stone basement, upon which are ranged, in pots, innumerable exotic flowers, of the richest fragrance and most brilliant colours. The choicest, perhaps, of those were clustered round that tasteful alcove, where, as I have observed in a former chapter, the Pasha sometimes spends an hour or two in the calm summer nights. Flowering shrubs and odoriferous plants, with lemon, orange, citron, and pomegranate trees, loaded with golden fruit, deeply impregnated the whole air with perfume, and recalled by their beauty the fabled gardens of the Hesperides, which, like these, were situated in the sands of Africa. Great taste and judgment have been exhibited in the laying out of these grounds. The vistas are exquisite. Rows of cypresses, the favourites of the Egyptian Pan, on one hand; mimosas, the growth of the Arabian wilderness, on the other. Here, dark evergreens extend their heavily laden boughs, tempting the eye with the most delicate fruit.

XCVII. The baths, which cover at least an acre of ground, are of a quadrangular form, and consist of a number of kiosks united by colonnades with elegant slender pillars of white stone or marble, ranged round a large square basin, occasionally filled with water, but now empty. Here a small boat, at this time under repair, is sometimes paddled about for the amusement of the Pasha or his ladies. In the centre of the basin are the baths of the harem,

formed of marble, and adorned with sculptured figures of crocodiles. The kiosks are small but handsome buildings, containing dressing-rooms, with divans, &c. where the Pasha and his family take coffee after bathing, and sometimes sup. The effect of the whole upon the eye at night, when the baths are filled with water, and the apartments and colonnades brilliantly lighted up with gas, must no doubt be fine ; but by day, when closely examined, the whole has an air of shabbiness and decay, the stones of the pavement are loose, the entablatures in many places broken, the rooms dirty, the doors out of repair. In fact, the whole affair, it is quite evident, was got up by the Pasha rather to dazzle the Turks than to suit his own tastes, which are exceedingly plain ; and he has now grown tired of the toy.

XCVIII. In the gardens, his Highness has a second menagerie, a few English deer, a kangaroo, and four giraffes, fine beautiful animals, three of which died of cold during the winter ; the fourth, when its life was despaired of, was given to an English gentleman, resident at Cairo, by whom it was sent as a present to some menagerie in London. The Pasha has likewise a stud here, for the following remarks on which I am indebted to Monro, who visited the place with me. There were a great many horses in open places ranged round a yard, like bullock sheds in England. Several of them were milk-white. The grooms pretended they were all *Nejdís* ; but this was not true, as some few were from Dóngola. There

were, however, many genuine *Nejdīs*. Amongst others I remarked a small dark chestnut horse, of the true blood, as his points would testify. He had a fine snake head, with an expanding and projecting nostril ; but, contrary to English ideas of perfection, a remarkably small pointed ear. His forehead was wide, with an eye expressive of boldness, generosity, and alacrity. His shoulder was thick through, and finely laid back ; his ribs and loins were round and deep ; his legs short and very powerful, the hoof being rather donkey formed, with an open heel ; and, from his muscular thighs and longish drooping pasterns, there is no doubt he would be elastic, speedy, and lasting. The groom said he was worth some hundred thousand *paras*, but as I did not turn it into guineas at the time, I have no idea of the sum. There were several other *Nejdīs*, partaking more or less of the same formation as the one above described. They carried no flesh, had very rough coats, and reminded me much of the Hungarian cavalry horse ; but the latter I saw in good condition. The *Nejdi*, however, is higher than the Hungarian, but looks small only from his fine proportions. The tallest horse I have seen of this breed was fifteen hands one inch ; but they are generally two or three inches under this. In walking through the caravan encampment, about to leave Cairo for Mekka, we were admiring a finely formed horse, when his owner pointed out another, which he valued more highly. He was feeding out of a bag, so that the lower part of his head was not visible ; but he was smaller than the other, and remarkably

short and thick in all his proportions. He had what *dog amateurs* call “a coarse stern,” his tail being entirely out of place, and his hind quarters cut off short like those of a camel. The Arab spoke much of his great speed, and said he was a *Nejdi* of the famous *Hassan breed*. He was surprised at our preferring the other. They were both chestnut.

XCIX. The Dóngola horse is black, with long white legs, and upright pasterns. He has a coarse Cleveland head, and, when out of condition, grows flat-sided and scanty in the loin. There is altogether a soft useless look about him. A certain French writer has stated that these horses are highly prized by the young gentlemen of Alexandria, who mount these long-legged nags for an hour or two in the morning, before they mount their long-legged stools; but as their judgment may possibly not have been matured upon the Hambleton Hills, it is not to be blindly adopted. It has been said that these horses are very perfect in Dóngola, but that they degenerate when exposed to a colder climate. It may easily be believed that from such a cause a horse may lose his condition, and, apparently, his substance; but that his bone should waste, that his legs should grow longer, and his ribs shorter, seems to be incredible. It is likely that those in the Pasha’s stables were some of the best specimens to be found.

C. The method in use among the Arabs, both of the cultivated country and the desert, for securing their horses, whether in the stable, the field, or the

camp, seems highly injurious. Each fore leg is fastened to the corresponding one behind by a rope, so short, that the former are drawn considerably under the body, both when the horse is feeding and when at rest. In the field, two other ropes passing from his fore-legs at right angles with his body, are pegged down at some distance on either side, and thus he is left to feed as far as he can before him. In the stable, besides the short ropes fettering his legs, the horse's head is tied by two ropes to the ceiling, and by two others to the earth, two ropes at right angles from his fore legs being fastened either to posts or to the wall, while his hind legs are tied either to the back wall, or to a strong rope, which passes along the ground behind the horses for that purpose. There may appear to be reason for putting some of these restraints upon horses placed near together without any partition to prevent their maiming each other; but it will scarcely be believed that I have seen a single horse, in a loose box, confined in the same manner, and this, not because he was vicious, but because it was customary. The practice of fastening the fore legs, and thus continually forcing them back under the body, must confine the natural freedom of action which a horse ought to possess; and, as it is applied to colts when very young, it seems not impossible that it may even displace the shoulder from the natural position which it would otherwise take. This appears to me to be the most rational way of accounting for the fact that the greater number of horses in Egypt have broken knees.

CHAPTER VIII.

DESCRIPTION OF A KANDJIA—DEPARTURE FROM BOOLAK—FIRST NIGHT ON THE NILE—THE MOSQUITOES—LOSS OF CHILDREN AMONG THE ARABS—ANECDOTE OF MY INTERPRETER—APPEARANCE OF THE ARABIAN MOUNTAINS—QUARRIES OF EL MASSARA—STORMS ON THE RIVER—LEGEND OF THE SIKSAK—SIMPLICITY OF THE ARABS—FORMS OF THE WOMEN—SINGULAR CUSTOM MENTIONED BY HERODOTUS—ANECDOTE—THE EVIL EYE—EFFECTS OF THE INUNDATION—VAST FLIGHTS OF PELICANS—NILE ROBBERS—ATHORBAKI—ISLANDS IN THE NILE—THE FALSE PYRAMID—GOOD-HUMOUR OF THE ARABS—IKSOOR—RECRUITING OF THE PASHA'S ARMIES—OPPRESSION—EXTRAORDINARY PRINTED ORDER OF THE PASHA—REMARKS ON HIS CONDUCT—THE JACKALS.

Monday, Dec. 10. *On the Nile.*

CI. HAVING hired a *kandjia*, a *dragoman*, &c., and made all other necessary preparations, I this day set sail, about twelve o'clock, from the port of Boolak. A *kandjia* is a decked boat, with two masts and two triangular sails, of which the foremost is much smaller than the other. There are two cabins upon deck: one about six feet in length, in which you live; the other, much shorter, for containing your provisions. Several small windows, with sliding shutters, but without glass, afford you a prospect of the river and country on both sides, and let in the cool air. Your servant sleeps in a small tent of mats before your door. The boatmen, with their captain, occupy the fore part of the *kandjia*, where they sit, cook their

victuals, and sleep. The steersman is perched aloft on your after-cabin. My own crew, including the *reis*, or captain, amounted to six men ; that of Monro, my only companion up the river, consisted of the same number. We agreed, on leaving Cairo, to keep near each other by day, to make our excursions on land in company, and to moor our boats together at night ; an arrangement which, during a voyage of many months, was scarcely ever interrupted. And this, in my opinion, is by far the most agreeable mode of travelling in Egypt, uniting perfect freedom and independence with the pleasures of society ; as often, at least, as a travelling companion can be found possessing all the social qualities, the learning and good sense which I met with in Monro. Fortunately, too, my dragoman, *Suleiman*, who, having performed the pilgrimage to Mekka, enjoyed the respected title of *Hajji*, or pilgrim, was, among persons of his class, a superior man, intelligent, active, and honest ; and, if he required higher wages than are generally given, he deserved them.

CII. The habit of travelling is soon formed. I had been but a short time in Cairo, before I again longed to be in motion ; and now felt, in bidding it adieu, and in the hope of beholding new scenes, a thrill of pleasure which it would be difficult to describe. Besides, the waters of the Nile were every day sinking rapidly, and it was to be feared, if we delayed our departure much longer, that there might be considerable difficulty in passing the cataracts.

Thebes, too, and the vast wilds of Nubia were before us ; and, having seen the Pyramids, nothing in the neighbourhood of Cairo appeared worthy to detain us any longer.

CIII. The view, immediately on departing from Boolak, is interesting and animated ; but, unfortunately, the sky was to-day overcast. There was not, however, even at starting, wind enough to fill our sails, and it soon died totally away. The Arabs then took to their oars, and, like the old Venetian gondoliers, lightened their labours with a song, the notes of which were not unpleasing. These poor people, though rough and savage in aspect, appeared to be exceedingly gay and good-humoured, singing and laughing continually. Like all other persons accustomed to constant vicissitudes, they are careless, neglecting to look beyond the present moment ; and if you smile upon them, and seem contented, they are capable of making very great exertions to oblige you.

CIV. Just as we were passing the southern point of the island of Rhoudah and the Tower of the Nilometer, the sounds of very agreeable music came floating across the Nile from the palace of *Halim Bey*, which, mingling with the songs of my merry vocal crew, had a highly pleasing effect. Opposite to Old Cairo (*Masr el Atikeh*) the captain of the port, observing two boats without flags proceeding up the river, came out in his barge to examine them ; but, on being informed that they belonged to Englishmen,

politely abstained from coming on board. The Pasha, indeed, has issued general orders that no kind of obstruction is to be offered to travellers, whether by the custom-house officers or any of the civil or military authorities whatsoever. Our servants, aware of this, and proud of British protection, replied to the civil interrogatories of the Turk in a rather saucy manner ; but it was not taken amiss. We cautioned them, however, against adopting a similar tone on such occasions for the future.

CV. We moored, shortly after sunset, close to the western bank, there being no wind, and it being very wisely ordered by the Pasha that the boatmen shall not be compelled to track after dark. As soon as the kandjia was made fast to the land by a short pole driven into the earth, which served instead of an anchor, the hajji and the boat's crew kindled their fires, which are made in small portable furnaces on the lee side of the deck, and began their cooking operations. The ordinary repast of the Arabs consists of lentil soup and bread : animal food is generally beyond their reach. Their constant beverage is Nile water. Yet, upon this coarse and simple fare, they are hale, athletic, active, like the Irish ; which shows how little the necessities of nature require. We spent the evening in my cabin, comparing the reasonings of Bruce, Shaw, Pococke, Clarke, and other travellers, on the site of Memphis ; and in examining Volney's ideas on the general appearance of the country, which he greatly undervalues. The barking

of the village dogs was heard on the shore until a late hour, and as I sat writing, long after my guest had retired, I was now and then startled by the shrill scream of some aquatic bird on the river. Nothing could be more comfortable than such a cabin. A narrow divan, which served as a sofa by day and as a bed by night, occupied one side of it; my books, maps, and papers, the other; and, the whole being finally matted, my pipes, coffee, dinner or writing apparatus, as the case required, were laid out in the centre. Those who carry fowling-pieces place them loaded by their bedsides; and I, who had no such weapon, usually slept with a pair of pistols under my pillow.

Tuesday, Dec. 11. *Shook.*

CVI. The mosquitoes, to escape from which the old Egyptians sometimes slept on the tops of lofty towers, were so exceedingly active during the preceding night, that, what with their troublesome attentions, the squeaking of the mice and rats, and the loud talking of the two Arabs, watching on deck, who knew no other means of keeping themselves awake, I was fain to pass a great many hours in meditation. The moon rose rather early, and its light, entering at every crevice, and mingling with that of the glimmering lamp, which I had left burning, gave a wild kind of aspect to the cabin. A short time before daylight the wind, which had blown but faintly all night, began to increase in strength, though, coming from the south, it was perfectly contrary. At

dawn, therefore, when I desired the *reis* to proceed, a number of men were sent on shore to *track*; that is, to draw along the boat by a cord, as horses draw coal barges, &c. in England. From paintings in the sepulchral grottoes of Eilithyias, and in the tombs of the Kings at Gournou, we learn that this practice has prevailed from time immemorial upon the Nile; and one of my boat's crew, who accompanied me to the above grottoes, supposing that the paintings he there saw represented the scenes which take place in *Hades*, exclaimed in a melancholy voice — “ Ah, see! the poor Arabs are compelled to track, even in the other world!” In some places the water, for a considerable distance from the shore, is so shallow that even these light barks find not enough to float them; in which case, the men take to their oars, though but very little way can thus be made against both wind and current. The ropes, oars, sails, and, in fact, all the appointments of a *kandjia*, are commonly of the most wretched description. This afternoon the towing line of Monro's boat snapped short, as they were trying to make round a small promontory, where the river ran very swift. The *kandjia* flew off among the whirlpools in a moment, and, having no ballast, was half filled with water before the cord could be repaired. The sky was dark and lowering all the morning, and in the afternoon it rained hard, while the cold was excessive. We passed close to *Deir Hhattein*, a small town, where a part of the Pasha's forces were encamped, preparatory, I imagine, to their being marched down to the shore,

to embark for Syria. In general, very small villages are, in Egypt, called *kāḥr*, a word which properly signifies “hamlet,” not “infidel,” as has sometimes been supposed. This opprobrious term has a totally different sound, being pronounced *kāfeer*.

CVII. *Hajji Suleiman*, my dragoman, had had the misfortune to lose, on the day before we left Cairo, a little boy, fifteen months old, on whom he had bestowed the name of their prophet. The poor fellow, though he had still another boy, took it much to heart ; and every now and then, after long silence and musing, would break out with some speech concerning his child. Scraps of morality, wise old sayings, and even the consolations of religion, were in vain called in to quell the feelings : grief would have its way ; and though his cheeks were rough and dark, I often saw them moistened by unbidden tears. This morning, when he had brought me my *chibouque*, and saw me seated smoking by the cabin door, he drew near, and, in a would-be cheerful tone, observed, that little children, when they died, not only gained admittance to heaven themselves, but daily petitioned the Almighty in behalf of their parents ; and, in proof of this, he quoted a verse from the Koran. Accordingly, pious people often rejoiced, he said, to lose a child, because it procured them a constant advocate before God : “ but,” added he, placing his hand upon his heart, “ it still pains one *here* !” However, as his wife was young, — not more than nineteen, — he still hoped to have another

son, whom he might name Mohammed, and thus be enabled to forget the one he had lost. The expenses of the funeral had amounted to thirty piastres, to defray which he had been compelled to sell his Syrian burnoose and several shirts. "And why, Suleiman," I inquired, "did you not apply to me?"—"You were not at the hotel, sir, just then, and we could obtain no credit." I observe among all these Arabs, poor as they are, proofs of strong natural affection, united with much sprightliness and vivacity.

CVIII. Opposite the village of *Deir* the Arabian chain sinks considerably in height. Traces of cultivation are few on the eastern bank, the ground between the mountains and the river being very narrow and rocky. On the western bank, likewise, the desert seems to approach nearer the river; so that this may, perhaps, be the narrowest part of the valley of the Nile, in Lower Egypt. The summit of the *Gebel Mokattam*, though here lower than usual, is nearly as straight as if planed and levelled artificially; and, their western face being perpendicular and exceedingly lofty, they have the appearance of a vast wall, which, for five hundred miles, protects the land of Egypt from the encroachments of the eastern desert.

CIX. On arriving at the village of *El Massara*, we quitted our boats, attended by Suleiman, and, mounting each a donkey, proceeded towards the vast quarries east of that village, whence, in all proba-

bility, the materials for the great public structures and pyramids of Memphis were drawn. Every little Nilotic hamlet stands in a grove of date trees, which forms at once its riches and its beauty ; and that of *El Massara* was an extensive one. Turning this, and a large field of dhourra sefi, nearly ripe, we crossed a wide plain, planted with the fine tall grass from which mats are manufactured, and then entered upon a flat, stony desert, of uneven surface, which conducted us to the foot of the *Gebel Mokattam*. Here the ground, on all sides, is encumbered with enormous accumulations of rubbish from the quarries, which look more like an attempt to cut the whole mountain into blocks, and remove it from its place, than spaces cleared out by obtaining stones for building. At first sight it would seem that all the cities of Egypt, which, according to Diodorus, were 18,000 in number, might have issued forth from these quarries. The mountain has been cleft from top to bottom, sawn into blocks, and areas as large as Grosvenor Square levelled with the plain. In other places, the face of the cliff has been scooped out into immense halls, which, communicating with each other, run in vast colonnades from north to south, adorned with rude columns, which, for their gigantic proportions, might seem to have been fashioned by the Titans. These lofty spacious chambers extend far into the bowels of the mountain, whose superincumbent weight is every where supported by huge pillars, left at intervals between the excavations. Of the

entrances to these subterranean apartments some are in the form of an arch, others like the Egyptian doorway. In Europe we have nothing resembling them, except, perhaps, those quarries of Syracuse, in which the seven thousand Athenians were imprisoned after the defeat of Nicias and Demosthenes. The catacombs of Alexandria, compared in magnitude with the excavations of *El Massara*, are mere rat-holes ; and yet the quarries of Hajjar Silsilis, in the Said, are still more immense than these. In one place the face of the mountain retreats in a straight line, and then turning suddenly, and continuing to run parallel with the river for perhaps a quarter of a mile, again projects in a right line to the plain, leaving between the two wings, thus formed, space enough for the site of a small city ; yet the rocks which once filled this great area were sawn from their basis, and transported across the Nile. Here and there, near the mouths of the caverns, prodigious masses of rocks, like those which detach themselves in winter from the summits of the Alps, have broken away from the overhanging cliffs, and rolled down into the plain, or been stopped among the mounds of rubbish which every where abound. Some of these enormous blocks had evidently been severed by human labour from the mountain ; but there the perseverance and mechanical powers even of the Egyptians appeared to have failed. No force of man could lift them from the earth ; and they were abandoned in despair.

CX. From the mounds of rubbish accumulated at the mouths of these rocky chambers, which, it is clear, from numerous traces of fire, are sometimes inhabited, we could command a fine view of that long line of pyramids which marks, towards the west, the extreme boundaries of the cultivated land. Storms of rain were rapidly hurrying over the face of the country from the Libyan desert ; and the thick haze, cloudy sky, and dismal aspect of nature, made the landscape almost sublime. Beneath our feet was the ancient road, which, running in a straight line across the plain, terminated, a little to the north of El Massara, on the banks of the river, directly opposite the pyramids of *Abousir*. Near the mouth of one of the excavations we found a hieroglyphical inscription, sculptured in a kind of tablet on the face of the rock. The legend, probably, contains some account of the quarries, but has been purposely mutilated. Beneath it, on a base, which seems to support the tablet, are represented, in rude outline, the figures of three oxen, drawing along, upon a kind of sledge, an enormous block of stone. They are directed by three drivers.

CXI. Returning to *El Massara*, we purchased mutton, goat's milk, and onions, which, being as yet near the capital, we found extremely dear ; the mutton being a piastre, or three-pence, per pound. Here our crews wished to moor for the night, as the wind was high and squally, and the river exceedingly rough. It would have amused me greatly to have

had Diodorus Siculus on board of my *kandjia* that afternoon : he would certainly no longer have fancied that the Nile “ has no violent surges or tempestuous waves.”* However, having caused the Arabs to take in a quantity of large stones for ballast, we felt sufficient confidence to proceed ; but it soon appeared that the boatmen were more prudent than we ; for several heavy squalls, attended by rain, came on in quick succession ; and during one of these my *kandjia* gave so much to the wind, that the stones began to roll all to one side ; and had she not righted in a moment, to the bottom we must have gone, for I had no time to spring out of the cabin. Many boats go down in this way, particularly higher up, where the mountains approach more nearly to the river. I saw the masts of one or two sticking up in the middle of the stream ; and an elegant barge belonging to Ahmed Pasha capsized and sunk while we were on the Nile. Yet, in spite of the bad weather, we made several miles before dark, and moored for the night at *Shook*, opposite to *Tabin*.

Wednesday, Dec. 12.

CXII. The sky, this morning, like yesterday, was thickly overcast with clouds, but the cold was less severe. We landed at an early hour in search of turtle-doves, which chiefly harbour in the small woods about the villages ; and while walking along the banks of the river, Monro shot a small beautiful bird, called

* Hist. l. i. c. iii.

siksak by the Arabs, concerning which the Egyptian peasants have a curious legend, pretending that when the crocodile, in fine calm sunny days, ascends out of the river to sleep upon some sandy islet, this bird always keeps near, and, if danger approach, takes care to awaken him by his sharp note. They add another particular, which, however fabulous it may be, has prevailed in Egypt from the age of Herodotus down to the present day, and seems to be founded on the physical structure of the bird. The *siksak*, which is undoubtedly the *trochilus* of Herodotus *, is armed at the point of each shoulder of the wings with a small sharp horn, like the talons of an eagle, the use of which the Arabs with their usual ingenuity explain as follows : — The crocodile, they say, being at times tormented by a noxious kind of vermin, which creep into his throat, and suck his blood, lies down on the sand, and instinctively opens his mouth. The *siksak*, impelled by the same instinct, mistaken by the Arabs for friendship, coming up to the crocodile, hops into his mouth and devours the leeches, in pursuit of which he will even descend far into the throat. The crocodile, forgetting the presence of his friend, sometimes closes his mouth and imprisons him; upon which the *siksak*, which is purposely armed for the occasion, lifts up its wings, and, pricking the tender sides of his throat with its sharp horns,

* “ When the crocodile leaves the water, it reclines itself on the mud, and generally towards the west, with its mouth open: the *trochilus*, entering its throat, destroys the leeches; in acknowledgment for which service, it never does the *trochilus* injury.” — *Euterpe*, c. 68.

quickly procures itself a safe return to upper air. Whatever may be thought of this legend, it is very certain that the crocodile is rarely seen unattended by one or more of these birds, which seem to approach him fearlessly, and to stand quite within his reach upon the sand.

CXIII. While Monro was shooting among the date trees of *Sagulteh*, a village where we stopped to purchase such provisions as were to be found, it was exceedingly amusing to witness the wonder of the Arabs at the dexterity with which he brought down the flying birds. Men, women, and children crowded about us, some asking permission to look through my eye-glass, which they supposed to have some connection with the effect of the fowling-piece ; others gazing in wonder at the detonating caps, which they feared to touch, seeing that they aided in some inconceivable way in the work of death. Many of the children, of both sexes, were stark naked ; and I saw one fine young maiden running from one house to another, who was nearly in the same state. Upon the bank of the river, in front of the village, a number of women, all young, were seated, selling bread, dates, onions, &c. most of them having children at the breast, evidently their first, as the bosom had not as yet acquired that pendent form, which at a more advanced period of life disfigures the appearance of an Egyptian female. They were nearly all *tattooed*, some having three or four lines of Arabic, probably sentences from the Koran, imprinted on the chin ; others a line of

small asterisms running on the inside of the right arm, from the elbow to the wrist, which was also adorned with the representation of a rich bracelet ; and several a small blue flower or star stamped upon the left breast. While young, most of these women have handsome bosoms, elegantly formed limbs, small hands and feet, full dark eyes, and, in many instances, pretty faces ; but, when once past the flower of their age, their features grow sharp and harsh, and their breasts, like those of the old Hindoo woman represented in Heber's Journal, acquire an incredible length, while all their limbs become spare and stick-like. Indeed, they grow, when old, exceedingly ugly, though the Arabs retain, under almost all circumstances, a look of good-natured simplicity which prevents them from being displeasing : besides, they are still women, and as such, whether old or young, entitled at least to our respect ; indeed I never beheld one of these poor creatures bending beneath the united weight of years and poverty, without experiencing the acutest commiseration—useless enough to them, but not to be avoided. Such of the Caireens as have been much in company with Franks, even as domestics, generally contract a violent prejudice against the peasantry, upon whom they affect to look down with extreme contempt : this morning, for example, at *Sagulteh*, the Hajji, in other respects a humane man, observing that I suffered an Arab to take the fowling-piece in his hand, exclaimed with a kind of disgust, “ Oh, sir, don't allow *that beast* to touch it.” He thought we should all be polluted by the very touch

of a *Fellah*. And it is from persons of this description that Europeans ordinarily borrow their preposterous ideas of the Egyptian peasantry.

CXIV. In walking along the western bank of the Nile, a little to the south of *Sagulteh*, we saw a confirmation of a curious assertion of Herodotus*, which has been groundlessly ridiculed by the critics. He observes that, upon the retiring of the river, the peasants cast the seed upon the mud, and then drove their oxen, sheep, *hogs*, &c. into the field to tread it in, by which means, without ploughing or harrowing, the grain was sunk sufficiently deep into the earth. A large field over which we passed this morning had undergone this process ; having never been ploughed or harrowed, but the wheat, cast upon the soft mud, had been trampled in by various animals, and was now springing up beautifully. The practice, however, is by no means general ; and, in fact, could only answer in the soft alluvial deposit close to the banks of the river. Speaking of pigs brings to my recollection two anecdotes : — the Mohammedans consider as unclean all animals which are shot, unless the sportsman, before life is extinct, come up with his game and cut its throat, turning the head towards Mekka, and reciting certain prayers. Aware of this prejudice, I inquired of Suleiman whether he could conscientiously eat what had been killed outright with a

* Euterpe, c. 14.

gun : he replied,—“ We who serve travellers, sir, eat every thing — *even pork !*” In general, I should not care to trust a pork-eating Musulman ; but, in this instance, the absence of religious prejudices was not accompanied by the absence of honesty. Rich Turks in Cairo and elsewhere, who hold the hog in abomination, nevertheless keep one or two of them about their houses, as a preservative against the *Evil Eye !*

CXV. Shortly after passing the above curious field, we crossed to the eastern bank. The Nile, which seems daily to increase in grandeur and magnitude, here resembled a little sea, studded with lovely islands, upon the rapid formation and disappearance of which I had heard abundance of exaggeration ; some persons pretending that every inundation effects a total change in its channel, so that a traveller sailing up the country in spring, and returning in winter, would scarcely be able to recognise the features of the scene. All rivers of great volume, which overflow their shores, are more or less unsteady in their course ; which is particularly the case with the Ganges, whose waters have overthrown and washed away several ancient cities that once stood upon its banks, and deserted others, which have in consequence fallen to decay. New islands, also, gradually spring up in its channel, while others, of considerable magnitude, crumble away and disappear. And such, likewise, is the case with the Nile ; but the changes are wrought slowly. Nearly all the important islands,

promontories, and sinuosities marked in Colonel Leake's excellent map, constructed several years ago, still exist in the same state; which seems to be sufficient to exculpate the Nile from the charge of so extreme a degree of fickleness as he has sometimes been reproached with. However, the stateliest date palms sometimes yield to his gnawing waters; an example of which I observed this morning, — a fine tree lay prostrate on the margin of the stream, which, though far from being entire, was sixty-six feet in length. In other parts the ruins of mosques, villages, or groves, partially undermined, hang nodding over the hollow banks, ready to be swept away by the first inundation.

CXVI. The Nile was here covered with immense flights of pelicans, which lay in long rows upon the water, but, as we approached, rose in quick succession, screaming, and beating the stream with their wings. One of these birds which we killed probably weighed above thirty pounds. The thick, soft, delicate plumage on the breast is milk-white at the roots, shot towards the top with a faint tint of pink or rose-colour, which shows beautifully when the bird, just rising on the wing, turns its breast towards the sun. Properly dressed, this portion of the pelican's skin would make superb muffs or tippets for the ladies; and, should the article ever be in fashion, the Nile would furnish a supply sufficient for all Europe, and many poor Arabs might be advantageously employed. The flesh, part of which we cooked and tasted, in

appearance resembled coarse beef; but had an oily, fishy taste, and rank smell, which rendered it unpalatable, though it was all eaten by the Arabs, whose stomachs were less fastidious than ours. The pelican being the largest bird known to the *Fellahs*, they have given it the name of *Gamal el Bahr*, or “River Camel.”

CXVII. For many hours we have had the False Pyramid* in sight; and directly opposite to this singular monument are the shapeless mounds which mark the site of *Atarbechis*†,—one of the cities of Venus,—the Aphroditopolis of the Greeks. The boats were this evening moored by accident on opposite shores; mine on the Arabian, Monro’s on the Libyan side; and the wind blowing strong from the west, my Arabs failed in making themselves heard by the other boatmen, and though extremely unwilling to be separated from their friends, would not attempt in the dark to cross the river against the wind. About nightfall a small strange boat, filled with Arabs, moored close under our stern for safety; for robbers, equal in celebrity to the *Dacoits* of the Ganges, are much dreaded on this part of the Nile; both Bruce and Niebuhr relate anecdotes illustrative of their dexterity. Soon after dark, while at dinner, I heard, for the first time, the wild dismal cry of the jackals which were prowling near us on the banks of the river. They

* In Arabic, *Haràm el Kedáb*.

† That is, *Athor-baki* — “the city of Athor.”

gave but one long howl, and then ceased ; while the village dogs seem upon the alert, barking incessantly in several parts of the plain, which must therefore be thickly inhabited. The wind blows in hollow gusts upon the river ; and, because there is more danger than usual, our guards appear to be all asleep.

Thursday, Dec. 13.

CXVIII. Early this morning we overtook Monro's boat, which had crossed to the eastern bank. We were yesterday entirely mistaken in supposing ourselves to be in sight of the *Haràm el Kedâb*, what we saw being that nameless pile which stands between this structure and the pyramids of *Dashour*. The False Pyramid did not become visible until about ten o'clock. The usual track of the kandjias, in ascending this part of the river, is along the western bank ; but as we were desirous of examining, in passing, the mounds of *Atarbechis*, near *Atfih*, we kept close to the eastern shore, where the current, especially when flowing round the many small promontories which the land here projects into the stream, is so rapid and violent, that I by no means wonder boats should generally keep on the opposite side. Seven small islands lying almost in the middle of the stream, divide the channel of the Nile, and being of considerable height, and covered with reeds and other fluvial plants, drooping and trembling over the water, have a very picturesque aspect. Near these islands we passed the village of *Essoof*, to the west of which Bruce supposed the ruins of *Atarbechis* to be situated. *El*

Wuddi, the *Wodan*, perhaps, of this traveller, stands close to the river, directly opposite the *third*, not the *fifth*, of these islets ; and a few hundred yards to the north of it, but further inland, is the village of *Iksoor*, which is rather more extensive.

CXIX. In rounding a sharp promontory my boat became nearly unmanageable, whirling about in the current, and tossing from side to side, till at length the tracking rope snapped, and it was borne impetuously down the current. Such accidents necessarily cause great delay, and much additional labour to the poor Arabs, who, in truth, work exceedingly hard, in dragging along the kandjias against the stream. But their good humour, which appears to be the birthright of the whole race, never forsakes them ; or if passion, for a moment, obtains the ascendancy, and inflames their minds, its effects are transient, and leave no bitterness behind. While the boat was plunging down the river, baffling all efforts to stop it, and appearing likely to throw them greatly in the rear of their companions, they had recourse to the consolations usually sought on such occasions ; and, since the actual causes of their chagrin, — the eddies and the kandjia, — were deaf and insensible, most vehemently railed and swore at each other ; but when the tracking line had been repaired, and the boat, having reached a smoother part of the river, once more reduced under control, smiles and laughter reappeared, and their laborious task was cheerfully resumed. Late in the preceding night, before retiring

to rest, I observed, from my cabin windows, a phenomenon not often witnessed on the Nile. Volumes of white mist were rolling down the stream, obscuring its broad surface and the country on the opposite bank, where the palm trees seemed to rise out of a sea of vapour. The moon, just then rising behind the Arabian mountains, and dimmed by a thin veil of clouds, cast its pale light over this unsubstantial mass, which appeared to be converted by its touch into waves of liquid pearl, transparent and bright, like the curled clouds in a calm summer sky.

CXX. This morning, immense flights of pelicans and wild ducks, — the latter coming apparently from the Libyan desert, — were seen hovering over the river. The boats descending towards Cairo from the Thebaid, having both wind and current in their favour, seemed to shoot down the stream like arrows ; while we, on the other hand, moving up the river with our tracking line, resembled so many logs. The navigation of the Ganges is better managed than this. However, from the slowness with which we proceeded, one important advantage was derived, — we were almost constantly on shore for weeks together ; indeed, I may truly say I have travelled through the greater part of Egypt on foot, at the rate of about ten or twelve miles a day, stopping at every village, conversing with the peasants whom we met at work in the fields, leisurely observing every thing ; so that there was scarcely a hut or a palm tree from Cairo to Minieh which was not familiar to our eyes.

CXXI. In the course of the afternoon we walked to the village of *Iksoor*, our path lying through fields of *dhourra*, the straw or stalk of which was nine or ten feet high, strong and tough, though not sufficiently so to have enabled an Arab girl to rival the Amazonian Rajpootni, who speared a wild boar with a sharpened stalk of maize. The *dhourra* straw, however, is exceedingly useful to the *Fellahs*, who employ it as bedding for their cattle, and to cover the flat tops of their huts, upon which it is laid across, over slender rafters of palm wood. We passed on the road a party of travellers, cooking their meal by the way side, while their camel was lying down close by them in the field. *Iksoor*, situated in a noble grove of date trees, appears to be inhabited by a Bedouin tribe, who have become stationary; and though more than half deserted,—the Pasha having taken away most of the young men to serve in the army,—it is still larger, better laid out, and cleaner, than the generality of Egyptian villages. Its cemetery, which covers a large space of ground, and seemed to have been neatly kept, is close to the dwelling-houses, towards the north. The poverty of all these hamlets is extreme; for nothing could here be procured for money,—neither bread, meat, butter, milk, nor eggs. Fowls, indeed, might have been purchased, but small and ill fed, like their owners. Half the village, as usual, flocked about us, at the first report of our fowling-piece, expressing great delight at seeing the flying bird brought down; and, notwithstanding their hereditary respect for doves, derived from the

old pagan notions of the East, ran with singular alacrity to pick up such as were killed. Here were some remains of what appeared to be ancient arches, half buried in the ground ; with three small elegant pillars and capitals in the Saracenic style, though the shafts probably belonged to a more remote age.

CXXII. From this village we proceeded, by a tolerably good cross road, bordered, at intervals, with rows of mimosa trees, to the village of *El Wuddi*, where the same poverty prevailed. Milk, however, the principal object of our inquiries, is only to be obtained in the mornings and evenings, when the buffaloes, cows, and goats are milked. It was here that I, for the first time, observed twelve large and very fine palm trees growing from a single root. In all these villages we hear execrations poured forth against the Pasha for the oppressive way in which he recruits his armies : and the practices to which the *Fellahs* resort to elude his despotism, prove at once their intense love of home, and their aversion to a military life ; not their cowardice, for, when brought into the field, they commonly fight with great bravery. However, as soon as the news reaches a village that a recruiting party is abroad, — and it spreads over the country like wildfire, — many men blind themselves with arsenic, others thrust a spear, or some other sharp instrument, into one of their eyes, or chop off the fore-finger of the right hand. We had one day thirteen Arabs in our service, who were all thus mutilated. Nay, mothers, forgetting that the Pasha's

wars cannot last for ever, have even been known to blind or maim their own children. And to such an extent has this practice been carried, that it has been at length thought necessary to make it punishable. An order was issued at Cairo, July 30th, 1832, to each of the principal persons in the city commanding them to produce a certain number of men for the army, under pain of forfeiting 700 piastres* for every deficiency. The consequence, says an eye-witness, was, that the streets presented the desolate appearance observed during the plague; the shops were closed, business was suspended, and women wailed as for the dead; the soldiers and inspectors employed in seizing the men, soon discovered the lucrative trick of pressing invalids, and other persons unfit for service, from whom menaces and their own fears extorted money for their release.†

CXXIII. But even this tyrannic order was found to be insufficient; for men still contrived, by practising on themselves, to elude the grasp of their oppressors; and at length the Pasha, in a moment of extreme irritation, issued the following circular, dated March 12th, 1833, printed in Turkish, and addressed to the military governors of districts: — “ With respect to the men whom we take for the service of our victorious armies and navies (war department), on their way to us, some draw their teeth, some put out their

* About 10*l.* sterling.

† The substance of this information respecting the order of July was furnished me in writing at Cairo, and came from an old resident.

eyes, and others break their arms, or otherwise maim themselves ; thus laying us under the necessity of sending back the greater part, and causing the deficiency in the report of the war department which I always perceive. Make up those deficiencies, by sending immediately all the men who are wanting, — all fit for service, able-bodied, and healthy ; and this you must do in concert with the sheikhs. And when you forward them, let them know that they must not maim themselves, because I will take from the family of every such offender *men* in his place ; *and he who has maimed himself shall be sent to the galleys for life*. I have already, on my part, issued *written orders** on this subject to the sheikhs ; and do thou, also, take care, in concert with them, to levy the conscripts demanded, and send them immediately ; informing me at the same time, and with the least possible delay, of the number of men who remain in your department. This is what I demand.” These circulars were all sealed with the signet of Mohammed Ali, and duly distributed.†

* These circulars were *printed*, to the number of *thirty*.

† His Highness, who, no doubt, laments the necessity of having recourse to measures of this rigorous description, understanding the characters of the persons with whom he has to deal, adopts a language suitable to the occasion. With Europeans, or in his diplomatic character, he would be very far from employing these “ swelling and gigantic words :” but, beset by difficulties, forced to overcome, at all hazards, the aversion of the Arabs for distant wars, and knowing, moreover, that with such a people, accustomed, unfortunately, to harshness, gentler means would be of none effect, he may, perhaps, be excused for clothing his mandates in so unamiable a costume. Two other circulars, still more remarkable for their style, were, during the spring of this year, forwarded from the divan of Alexandria to the municipal authorities ; and these, also, will be introduced in a future chapter.

CXXIV. But we must do justice to the Pasha's government. Twenty years ago, the villages in this neighbourhood were so many nests of robbers, so that no stranger could with safety visit them. At present, though the race is far from being extinct, thieves are becoming more rare; the constant levies for his Highness's "victorious armies" draining them away, to exercise their ingenuity in other quarters. I have heard the Swiss defend their mercenary practice of selling the blood of their fellow citizens to foreign nations, by dwelling on the public advantages of getting rid, in distant wars, of the turbulent and unprincipled part of their population; peace, which to all other nations is a blessing, being a curse to them, since it brings home all their thieves and highwaymen, to infest the roads, brawl in the taverns, and fill the gaols. If caitiffs of this description alone were kidnapped by the Pasha's Italians for the army, the Egyptian peasantry would have but little cause for complaint; but, numerous as rogues are in Egypt, I fear that Ibrahim would hardly have achieved his Syrian victories, had no honest man been admitted into the ranks.

CXXV. We moored for the night a little to the south of *El Wuddi*, and the jackals, which seem to grow more numerous as we advance, again, immediately after nightfall, entertained us with their howlings, which greatly resemble the screams of a set of hired mourners wailing for the dead. The village dogs also show their vigilance, by incessant

barking. Except these, however, no sounds were heard, save the ripple of the water and the creaking of the kandjia, as it swung to and fro in the current of the Nile. I now began to think my little cabin quite comfortable, with my divan, my books, my pipe, my coffee, and my cheerful lamp; more especially when, returning late in the evening, tired after a long walk, I beheld a light gleaming from the cabin door across the water, awakening something analogous to the feelings of home; though, being greeted, on entering, by none of those young faces which I was wont to see clustering round my hearth on the banks of Lake Lemman, this feeling soon gave way to a sense of utter solitude. We had no rain this day (though the sky still continued to be overcast), and the cold was less severe than the day before.

CHAPTER IX.

DANGEROUS AVALANCHES IN THE NILE—MY KANDJIA NEARLY SUBMERGED IN THE RIVER—QUARREL WITH THE NATIVES—SAND STORM ON THE NILE—COTTON PLANTATIONS—VISIT OF WILD BEASTS—DEPTH OF THE SOIL OF EGYPT—KIASHEFF OF SOHL—A BEDOUIN CAVALIER—HIDDEN TREASURES—CURE FOR LEPROSY—APPEARANCE OF THE ARABIAN CHAIN—MOSLEM FAKĪRS—GRATITUDE OF THE ARABS—RARENESS OF CATS—CHEAPNESS OF PROVISIONS—A MURDERED MAN—BEAUTY OF THE RIVER—ARRIVAL AT BENISOOEF.

Friday, Dec. 4. *Kafr el Zarateen.*

CXXVI. This morning seemed, at sunrise,—there being little wind,—to promise a better day than yesterday. But it soon began to blow as strong as ever from the south ; and, as there was no path for the trackers on the eastern bank, we put up a sail, and made for the opposite shore, where we had much difficulty in keeping the kandjia from striking every moment against the land. Several villages are here seen on the Arabian side of the Nile ; and, directly over against the place where we moored, there is a small low island, *Geziret el Zarateen.*

CXXVII. This was a day of accidents, one of which nearly proved fatal to me and my boat. The wind, as usual, was southerly when we set out, and, soon after our departure, began, as I have said, to blow

with great violence. Of course, there were no means of proceeding but by tracking; and, for this purpose, three men were sent on shore. Monro had left his boat early, while I had remained on board to write. At length, however, I observed that the current, aided by the wind, was becoming exceedingly violent; that the three men on shore were unequal to the task of tugging us along; and that, owing to the loftiness and steepness of the bank, there was no possibility of adding to their number. About ten o'clock in the morning, we came to a bend in the river, where the bank was at least twenty feet high, and worn away at the base by the action of the stream; and, in consequence, extremely liable to those avalanches (as they are justly denominated by Bishop Heber) which often sink boats in the Ganges. Round this point the Nile rushed along with fearful noise and velocity, forming many whirlpools, and eddying vortexes covered with foam; and it required extraordinary force to drag forward the kandjia through this "hell of waters." By great good fortune, Monro's boat turned the promontory in safety; but when mine came up, either the wind had increased, and the fury of the eddying current along with it, or my Arabs, already fatigued and exhausted, made an untimely pause; thus giving the water a purchase, as it were, by which to cast us back. Our *reis*, a highly active but not a strong man, knowing wherein the danger of our position consisted, endeavoured, by the most strenuous exertions with the pole, to keep away the boat from the overhanging bank,

where huge masses of earth were ready to fall upon our heads. But the strength of the current was quite irresistible. It was in vain that he exerted himself: indeed, three feet from the land he could find no bottom, and his pole became useless. The kandjia, yielding to the force of the stream, now pulled back the trackers, and went down the river, striking against the bank in the most fearful manner. In a few minutes, the poor Arabs, recovering breath, again came to the charge, — again dragged her along, — until she was just turning the point, where the might of the river once more prevailed, and down the stream we went a second time. Monro's people, who were out of danger, stood looking on, though our *reis* several times called upon them for help. Their master not being present, they would not stir.

CXXVIII. Mohammed was not, however, to be discouraged: his passions, though engaged in a struggle with the elements, beginning to be excited, in a tone of anger and fierce reproach he commanded the trackers to exert themselves like men. They obeyed; and, dashing desperately forward, our gallant bark, in the midst of foaming whirlpools, had already turned the promontory, when the strength of the poor fellows again failed, and compelled them to yield to the stream. In a moment the kandjia was hurled furiously against the cliff; and a large superincumbent mass of earth giving way, came thundering down upon the cabin: the vessel was in an instant

on her beam-ends, and one of the crew pitched overboard. The crash of the *kandjia*'s side, in striking against the land, made me think that all was over ; and she at once began to fill with water. Throwing off my cloak, therefore, I prepared to swim for my life ; though, owing to the severity of the cold, the violence of the whirlpools, and the inaccessible steepness of the bank for miles down the river, the chances, had it come to that, would have been greatly against me. However, the sharp despairing cry of the *reis* and sailors, the extreme dismay of Suleiman, and the terrific appearance of the whole scene, confirmed me in the notion that the boat, at all events, was lost.

CXXIX. At this stage of the adventure, Monro's men, thinking we were drowning, came running to lend their aid. The *kandjia*, in fact, was filling rapidly. Observing, as she floated down along the shore, a small projecting ledge of earth, I therefore leaped upon it, without pausing to consider whether it would bear my weight or not. Before the Arabs could follow my example, she had already passed the ledge, and it was too late. But, though standing on *terra firma*, my position was by no means an enviable one ; for the bank projected so far over my head, and was so soft and crumbling, that another fall of earth seemed likely to be produced by the slightest motion. However, the Arabs on shore, quitting the tracking-line, ran to my assistance ; and, at the hazard of being themselves plunged into the river below, leaned their bodies over

the brink, and, giving me their hands, enabled me to reach the summit. Meanwhile, a portion of the earth had fallen from the top of the cabin into the river, and the kandjia began to right herself. I now seized the cord; and, in a short time, we succeeded in keeping her steady: while the *reis*, Suleiman, and the other two Arabs (the man who had fallen overboard having been taken up), cleared off the rest of the earth. Monro and his servant, Abuzaid, returning from some distant village, found us thus engaged; and with their aid (for the trackers were worn out) I at length drew my unfortunate bark, soiled and shattered as she was, round the point which had so long defied our utmost exertions.

CXXX. We now proceeded tranquilly, until we arrived in front of the village of *El Kotoreh*, where we saw a large party of people at work in a field gathering cotton. I was walking along alone, a little behind the trackers, having left Monro, Suleiman, and Abuzaid considerably farther in the rear. In a moment I observed the crew of Monro's kandjia engaged in a violent quarrel with these cotton-gatherers; who had seized upon an old man, the father of the *reis*, and were, as they pretended, dragging him away across the fields for a soldier.* One of these ruffians, who afterwards proved to be the *kiasheff* of *El Kotoreh*, had a musket in his hand; and another,

* Being past the age of service, this was a mere pretext: the object was to extort from him a few piastres.

after the manner of barbarians, was ostentatiously loaded with pistols. I had unfortunately left my own arms on board ; but, provoked at their audacious insolence, I pushed through the crowd, and ran across the field in pursuit of the *kiasheff*, who was dragging away the old man. Upon my coming near, and speaking in a loud and angry tone, he let go his hold (though he knew not what I said); but appeared to assume an air of authority, presuming, I imagine, upon his musket, and the strength of his party. Having no one near to interpret for me, I walked close up to the *kiasheff*, and, pronouncing the words *Pasha* and *Firman*, took the old man by the arm, and led him back towards the river ; no person attempting to interrupt me, though they all followed at a few paces' distance. My dragoman, and the rest of the party, now came running up, and, through them, I inquired into the affair, at the same time threatening the *kiasheff* that I would immediately write to the Pasha, and have him disgraced. Upon this he grew very civil and humble ; said he was merely in jest ; and, upon our inquiring why he carried a musket, pretended it was merely to protect from robbers his own people while at work in the fields. However, we learned in his village, in the afternoon, that, having received an order from the *mamoor* of the district to furnish a certain number of men for the army, he had, to spare his own people, actually set out in the morning on a kidnapping expedition about the banks of the river.

CXXXI. Having proceeded, in advance of the boats, a short distance beyond this village, we noticed a very remarkable appearance in the sky, which seemed to portend the approach of a sand-storm; the whole horizon, on the edge of the Libyan desert, being obscured by a dense cloud of a black and lurid colour, flushed with a deep blood-red. Excepting during a *typhoon**, in the Messenian Gulf, near Cape Matapan, I have never witnessed so awful an atmospheric phenomenon. The wind as yet blew but faintly; still no one could doubt, from the whole aspect of nature, that a hurricane was at hand; and in a few minutes, those big heavy drops, which usually precede a tempest, began to fall. We were out on a bare open country, like a heath; but, at the distance of about half a league, towards the south, there stood a small grove of mimosa trees, towards which we proceeded in all haste for shelter; but had not advanced many paces before the rain descended with great violence; so that, ere we could have reached the wood, we should have been drenched to the skin. In this dilemma (our boats being far behind), nothing was left us but to crouch down beneath the low shelving sand-bank which marked the last rise of the inundation. After remaining a few moments in this position, on lifting up my head, I beheld a spectacle of terrific grandeur: thick driving rain obscured the landscape towards

* This term is usually applied to the storms of the Indian Ocean, but is equally applicable to those which vex the narrow and dangerous seas of Greece.

the north, east, and south ; but, in the west, the whirlwind, having torn up a prodigious quantity of sand in the Libyan desert, was hurling it aloft into the air, in surging volumes, like the smoke of a capital city on fire ; darkening the whole face of heaven, and seeming, as it came driving along the plain, to be about to overwhelm and swallow up at once the whole of the cultivated country and the mighty river. In another moment, the sand-storm, mingled with rain, had reached us. The river, the earth, the sky — every thing was hidden from our sight. My heart palpitated violently, my lungs seemed as if they would burst ; I could scarcely breathe. Lest, therefore, we should be suffocated (as many have been by this desert blast), we wrapped our heads in our cloaks, and, bending down our faces towards the earth, allowed the storm to expend the first blast of its fury before we again dared to look up. Neither of us uttered a word. But, when the low, fearful rustling, which accompanied the passing of the sand, had partly abated, I ventured to address my companion, who, like myself, had experienced a strongly suffocating feeling during the storm, or rather, during the whirling along of the sand—for the tempest still continued in all its fury. We now, however, began to think of our boats. Hastening, therefore, down along the bank, in the midst of torrents of rain, I discovered my kandjia at a distance, drawn close to the shore, and Suleiman, with the *reis*, and all his crew, arduously engaged in preventing it from being driven

out into the river and sunk ; for the Nile, vexed by the whirlwind, resembled a tempestuous sea, black with mud, tearing up its banks, and tossing hither and thither our frail bark like a nutshell. Five strong ropes, made fast to different parts of the vessel, and held by the combined efforts of our whole party, were barely sufficient to prevent it from being lost ; for, though the heavy rain had beaten down the clouds of sand, the wind appeared to increase in vehemence every moment.

CXXXII. How long we remained in this condition I can form no conjecture ; but at length, late in the afternoon, the wind abated, the sky cleared up, and the sun shone forth upon the still agitated river. I now found, upon going on board, that the storm, which, as a spectacle, was magnificent beyond description, had done me considerable injury ; my books, papers, maps, and bed having been wetted, or covered with ink ; and my two coffee-pots—no trifling loss where none could be found to replace them—been thrown overboard. Directing the *reis* to proceed towards the next village, after ascertaining my losses, I again landed, to spend the remainder of the day in the fields. The greater part of the western plain was here laid out in cotton plantations, which, partly covered with yellow flowers, partly with the bursting snow-white fruit, had an exceedingly beautiful appearance. The cotton-flower is bell-shaped, not unlike the tulip, though rather smaller, with rich bright yellow petals,

each of which is marked on the inside with a red spot. I am ignorant whether or not it has yet been introduced into our ornamental plantations; but, unquestionably, when clean and in good condition, it is surpassed by few shrubs in elegance or beauty. Before the storm came on, the inhabitants had been busily engaged in gathering in this article of their harvest. Late at night, while engaged in writing the above lines, a wolf, hyæna, or wild dog, sprang from the bank upon the roof of my cabin. Snatching up a pistol and lamp, I opened the door, in the hope of shooting him, but the wind extinguishing my light, he escaped. The hajji, reis, guards and all, were asleep; and this being frequently the case, I should not be at all surprised at finding some of them throttled during the night by wild beasts.

Saturday, Dec. 15. *Wasta.*

CXXXIII. On this day, though no accidents occurred, our progress was so much impeded by strong contrary winds, that we advanced not above five or six miles. For the first few hours we continued on the African side of the river, where the plain was covered with crops of ripe dhourra, and in some places exhibited a fine close green turf, extending from the corn-fields to the Nile. Every where we see proofs of the vast depth of alluvial soil in this country, which, in many places, is certainly not less than twenty-five or thirty feet, all rich, black, and soft as butter. It seems to consist of numerous horizontal strata, slightly differing in colour, the edges of which

are laid bare by the river's constantly changing its course, and eating away its banks. A little below *Atfih*, we saw, on the western shore, three fishing-boats, the crews of which had been occupied unsuccessfully for several days ; and having probably been attempting to indemnify themselves by robbing the fields, were engaged, when we passed, in wrangling with the peasants. The fish of the Nile, which attain a very large size, are generally insipid and unwholesome, like those of all other muddy rivers. Walking on alone in advance of the boats, I met with several women, who were returning from the river with water-jars on their heads ; and, a little farther on, saw a young girl, of about fifteen, driving a laden ass before her. Terrified at the appearance of a stranger, the poor girl deserted her charge, and plunged like a hare into the dhourra fields, uttering the most piercing cries. Not being versed in her language, I made no attempt to pacify her, though, had she been heard by any of her countrymen, they must have supposed I had been endeavouring to murder her, at least.

CXXXIV. Here the bank of the river, which had hitherto been lofty and precipitous, became suddenly shelving, so that we were compelled to cross to the opposite side, where we found the earth covered with a saline efflorescence, white as snow ; which being, however, thinly sprinkled over the ground, rather resembled hoar-frost, sparkling and glittering in the sun. During this morning's walk, we passed the mounds of *Athorbaki*, near *Atfih*, about a mile

from the river ; but, no ruins existing on the spot, we contented ourselves with a distant view. Of the *Doulab el Halfah*, found in Colonel Leake's map, the peasants had never heard ; and, according to them, *Neslet Abdallah*, which he places on the Arabian side, immediately north of the latitude of *Atfih*, is situated on the opposite bank.

CXXXV. *Sohl*, the next large village towards the south, is one of the finest that I have seen in Egypt. It is surrounded by marks of opulence and high cultivation ; extensive fields of wheat and tobacco, interspersed with beautiful date and mimosa groves, springing up from a level carpet of tender green corn ; and the road leading to the village, through the midst of these woods, would in Europe be regarded as a fine promenade. The houses are well built, of unburned brick, and the streets clean ; while the people had an appearance of comfort and ease, which was new to me. We proceeded straight to the kiasheff's house, where travellers, in want of provisions, should always make their first inquiries ; and found him sitting in the shade, before his door, on a mat, which was shared by an elegantly accoutred Bedouin, and several respectable-looking Arabs. He received us very politely, caused us to sit near him on the mat, and, turning round to some of his servants who were present, ordered them to kill a sheep, and prepare a feast ; for that we should certainly dine with him that day. This honour, however, which would have occasioned considerable delay,

we as courteously declined. Pipes and coffee were then brought in, and we entered into conversation respecting the affairs of the village. The old man was very lively and communicative. The population of *Sohl*, he said, consisted of about four hundred men, and eight hundred women ; the greater part of the youth having been taken away by the Pasha for the army. In a town, on the other side of the Nile, there were, they assured me, at least twelve women to one man ; and last year the cultivation of the sugar-cane, in this neighbourhood, had been abandoned for lack of hands. The Bedouin, a bold military-looking man, about the middle age, wearing an elegant sabre and pistols, and having a fine horse with scarlet housings, strongly pressed me to allow him to accompany me into Nubia. Nothing could convince him but that I, and all my countrymen who travelled into these regions, were in search of gold, which he supposed we knew how to discover among the tombs, and other subterraneous buildings (where, in fact, vast treasures in money and jewels have sometimes been found in the East) ; and if I allowed him to bear me company, he was persuaded that his fortune was made. My refusal he no doubt attributed to mere avarice ; supposing that I wished to monopolise all the vast riches which, in his opinion, I was sure to find.

CXXXVI. Near this village we obtained a fine view of the False Pyramid, which seems to have been commenced on a large scale, then discontinued, and a smaller pyramid, of imperfect formation, erected on

the base of the larger one, as on a pedestal.* While shooting in a neighbouring hamlet, Monro learned the existence of a curious kind of superstition among the Arabs. A party of Bedouins happening to be riding by, just as he had brought down a bird, one of them, who saw it fall, approached him, and inquired whether it were a pigeon or a dove? Considering it as a piece of impertinence, instead of satisfying him, he demanded why he put the question. “Because, if it be a dove, replied the Bedouin, I wish to beg a few drops of its blood, as I am afflicted by a disease for which that is a cure!” It was, in reality, a dove, and my companion, of course, assured him that he was most welcome to the blood, in which, accordingly, he dipped his finger, and applied it to some white spots on his breast — evidently leprosy. They were not larger than a five-para piece.† He had been tattooed in several places for the same purpose, as, in cases of leprosy, that operation is also considered beneficial by the Arabs.

CXXXVII. The appearance of the Arabian chain of mountains is here very remarkable, consisting of detached hills, like half-built pyramids, or resembling small cones; while others, again, run along in irregular ridges, of different elevation. The

* I allow this remark to stand, as a specimen of the false theories which travellers are apt to construct respecting things which they have not closely examined. On my return from the Fayoom, I visited the *Haram el Kedâb*, and corrected the notions which I had formed from a distant view.

† Considerably smaller than a sixpence.

Libyan range is not visible. In this part of the *Heptanomis*, (afterwards *Arcadia*,) there is little or nothing to interest the antiquarian ; nor, indeed, does the traveller, who extends his observations to the modern state of the country, find much to command his attention, as the valley is but thinly inhabited, and the land, at least on the eastern bank, a mere marsh, covered with reeds and rushes.

Sunday, Dec. 16. *Zeitún*.

CXXXVIII. Left *Wasta* before sunrise. To the south of this village, on the African side, the country again improves, and is diversified on all sides with fields of wheat, dhourra, indigo, tobacco, and sugarcane. At the small hamlet of *Beni Eddeir* we saw two old *fakirs*, one of whom, for a trifle which I gave him, followed us out of the place, loading us with blessings ; while the other, with a fine venerable countenance, resembling the Hippocrates of the British Museum, was lying down like a Hindoo Yoghi, on a heap of ashes, in the sun, with his eyes shut, and his hands, arms, and face covered with swarms of flies. Children are not generally numerous about these villages, which would seem to show that the population is not kept up. Among the Turks, the Cretan check to population may operate extensively ; but here it is mere misery ; for if many children are born, the infirm and weakly soon perish through neglect. Here and there, upon the banks of the river, we find women with baskets full of thin Arab cakes of fine flour, in some cases mingled with dhourra meal, and contain-

ing all the bran, which they sell, eight for a piastre, to the voyagers up and down the Nile. One of these cakes, with butter, is enough for a man's breakfast. Several men, also, are seen parading along the banks with sheep, goats, and kids for sale.

CXXXIX. Between *Maimoom* and *Zeitún*, we caught a glimpse of the Libyan chain of hills, which appears to be at a considerable distance. The navigation of the Nile, in this part of its course, is rendered peculiarly dangerous by those avalanches which are constantly falling from its lofty banks, by strong, rapid currents, small sandy islands and shallows, and sudden gusts of wind. The weather, however, was now beginning to improve, and we had to-day many hours of sunshine, though there was still a great keenness in the air ; which may, perhaps, account for the ravenous appetite that tormented us all day, though we were constantly eating. Indeed, had not our health been so robust, I should have thought we had been afflicted with the *boulimia*, by which the soldiers of Xenophon were attacked, in the mountains of Kúrdistan, on their return from Babylon. Almost all my Arabs have wounds on their arms or legs, which I daily dress for them ; and, in consequence, they have bestowed on me the title of *Hakim Bashi*, or “ chief of the physicians.” Contrary to the ordinary notions of European residents, who live in the country without ever mingling with the natives, I find these poor people abundantly grateful for any little kindness which is

shown them. They are, in fact, very willing, well-behaved men, and deserve much better treatment than they commonly meet with; and the women, excepting in the great towns, are shy and modest. This morning, in walking along the shore, I offered my hand to a young matron who had been drawing water, in the old Hebrew style, from the river, and had a very steep bank to climb with her jar; but she declined my help, replying, *La, Sidi!* “No, my lord!”—with a good-natured expression of countenance, which showed she was not unthankful for the offer, though she did not consider it decorous to accept of it. Diodorus and other Greek historians inform us that the cat, the symbol of *Bubastis**, or Diana Lucina,—the Goddess of parturition and new-born infants,—was held in extreme veneration throughout Egypt, so that to kill one of these sacred animals was regarded as a capital crime, while their dead bodies were religiously embalmed, and sent to be interred at *Bubastus*, or Pibeseth, in the Delta. Were the same funeral honours now decreed to dead cats in Egypt, the expense would not be great: and if the rareness of a thing be calculated to enhance its value, we may conclude that they are still greatly esteemed on the banks of the Nile, for I have never any where seen so few cats; certainly not a dozen since I quitted Alexandria. Perhaps the climate may be unfavourable to the increase of this animal.

* Jablonski, *Panth. Ægypt.* i. 55. 83.; ii. 66. 68. 71, 72.

Monday, Dec. 17. *Benisooëf*.

CXL. The weather, on leaving *Zeitún*, was less cloudy than during the preceding day ; yet the sun seemed to have but little force. Here the Arabian mountains project almost into the river, with high round sand-hills in front, and present exactly the appearance of a coast deserted by the sea, seeming to bear evident marks of the gradual subsiding of the waters. The desert, too, on both sides, is covered with innumerable marine shells, some fossil, others not : all tending to confirm the hypothesis of Herodotus, that the Nilotic valley was formerly an arm of the sea. There is also a perceptible decrease in the Nile itself, which here seems to be shrunk up or devoured by the sands of the desert ; while many extensive sand-banks and low islands break up the stream, and diminish its grandeur. Provisions are exceedingly cheap : we purchased half a bushel of fine onions for sixpence ; and thirty-two new-laid eggs for three-pence. The river continues to be covered by vast flights of pelicans ; which I have never observed to fly, in the form of a wedge, like the wild duck, as has been stated by some writers.

CXLI. Soon after passing *Boosh*, we came to a large sandy island, dividing the Nile into two very unequal streams, of which the eastern one only is navigable. This island, at the northern extremity, is very low, but rising gradually, it terminates at the south-east, in high perpendicular banks, round which

the river rushes with extraordinary velocity. A jungle of sedge and tall reeds, through which it is very difficult to force a passage, covers the whole surface of the island; and, in warm weather, must be a nest of serpents. On the south-western promontory I found, among the sand, a number of small semi-transparent pebbles of various colours; and the sand itself, coarse and angular, as not yet reduced to its proper state, seemed to consist entirely of particles of decomposed granite. It was raised in clouds by the wind, and driven with so much violence into our faces, that it was painful to open the eyes; so that a few hours passed in such a place would probably cause a dangerous ophthalmia.

CXLII. Not far south of this island, and nearly in front of the village of *Shendawieh*, where (as Denon has observed) the Nile is bordered by a bank of fine green turf, we came suddenly upon a party of three *fellahs* and a boy, who were employed in digging a grave for a murdered man. The body lay on its back in the sun, close to the river, having no other covering than a coarse blue shirt. The head was bare, and blood was oozing from a deep gash in the occiput, and from the mouth, eyes, and nostrils. If one might judge by the features, it was the corpse of a Nubian from about Dóngola, and appeared to have been some hours in the river, being swollen and livid. Two young men were digging the pit on the edge of a field of dhourra, close to the pathway used by the trackers; while an old man sat by silently

watching their operations. The boy, with a face of fear and wonder, knelt at the grave's head, looking anxiously on. When the pit was thought deep enough, the old man and the grave-diggers proceeded to take up the body ; which they laid in the ground, with the head towards the west, and the feet towards Mekka and the Nile. A tattered garment, seemingly belonging to the deceased, was thrown over the face ; the arms were stretched down by the sides ; a quantity of dhourra straw was placed upon the body, and the earth closed over all. Not having our servants with us, we could not learn the history of this murder ; but it appeared to have been effected by those rude spears, with iron heads two feet in length, which are the common weapon of the *fellahs*.

CXLIII. Leaving this spot, we continued our walk along the shore, until, opposite *Nesle*, we found a number of shipwrights at work on the frame of a very neat boat. The Arabs, like the Parsees of Bombay, appear to have a kind of instinctive expertness in ship, or rather boat-building ; for nowhere perhaps, in the world, are there found small vessels more excellent, or better adapted to the sort of navigation in which they are employed, than the *kandjias* and other small craft on the Nile. The river here expands greatly, until you reach *Benisooëf*, where it presents to the eye a magnificent expanse of waters, which, when we arrived, was glowing with all the golden tints of the setting sun. In front of the bar-

racks, a large white building of good appearance, there is an open space of ground, surrounded on three sides by rows of lofty spreading trees. One of these rows, of tall mimosas, runs along the Nile; and a fine promenade might easily be made under the shelter of its overhanging boughs. We moored near this spot, where we found a number of Turkish and Albanian soldiers lounging about, and looking at the water; very merry, and, seemingly, civil fellows, exceedingly different from what they were a few years ago, when every traveller who ventured into these inhospitable regions might be said to carry his life in his hand.

CHAPTER X.

TOWN OF BENISOÖF — THE BAZĀR — CONTRASTS OF COSTUME — SUGAR PLANTATIONS — TURTLE-DOVES — RAIN — MAGNIFICENT BEND OF THE RIVER — MOUNTAIN SCENERY — HEALTH — CHANGES IN THE ATMOSPHERE — BREEZES ON THE RIVER — RAINBOWS — BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE — SOURCES OF THE PICTURESQUE — GAMES OF THE ARABS — STRAW BOATS — COMPLEXION OF THE NATIVES — FISH EATING — SPLENDID SUNSETS — USE OF TORTURE — CONFLAGRATIONS ON THE PLAIN — REMAINS OF A BEDOUIN ENCAMPMENT — ARAB MODE OF SPINNING — ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL SUNSET — SITE OF CYNOPOLIS — RUINS — ROCK CHAMBERS — SALT — MONOLITHIC TEMPLES — KOLOKOSANEH — DANCING GIRLS — THE MOUNTAIN OF BIRDS — EXCAVATIONS — SITE OF ACHORIS.

Tuesday, Dec. 18. Near *Malakhah*.

CXLIV. Early in the morning we landed, with our Arabs, to see the town. *Benisooëf* is a place of some consideration, with several mosques, caravan-serais, and large private houses; together with an extensive, well-supplied bazār, frequented, once a week, by all the peasants of the country round. As it happened to be market-day, this bazār, thronged with people, formed an interesting and striking, but not a gay scene. Both sellers and buyers, with but few exceptions, had an air of poverty; and among these exceptions were the officers of a regiment of cavalry quartered in the town, whose gorgeous uniforms, glittering with gold, contrasted disagreeably with the rags

which scarcely covered the nakedness of the half-starved *fellah*. If you except the necessities of life, the articles exposed for sale in an Egyptian bazār would, in general, be regarded with scorn at an English country fair. At an earthenware shop at Benisooëf, for example, all the articles of English manufacture consisted of one small white basin, a soup plate, and a few small dessert plates, of the commonest kind, most of which I bought for four piastres. In another place you see a man vending pipe-heads, whose whole stock might be purchased for five shillings ; yet he gets his living, such as it is, by selling them. Another person has a few onions ; another a small quantity of dates ; a third, the most thriving person by far, is engaged in selling hot cakes, mixed with butter, at ten paras each, which he bakes as you eat them. Bread every day grows cheaper as you ascend the Nile. At *Benisooëf* we bought, for a piastre, sixteen small cakes, as nice, though not quite so fine, as muffins ; thirty-two eggs for the same money ; eight small lemons, or rather citrons, for ten paras ; mutton, twenty-five paras per pound ; butter and milk, both excellent, were rather dearer.

CXLV. From this part of the bazār we proceeded to that which is held among the large mounds of rubbish, to the north of the town. Here we observed a more lively scene. On one side, near an old wall, were a number of water-jars, pots, and pans, with a row of Arab women squatting down behind them, laughing and chatting with infinite glee and

volubility. Near these was a group of itinerant female linen-drapers, each with a piece of coarse linen on her lap; farther on, a man with mats; another with printed cottons; and a third with carrots, or other vegetables. In the midst of these, as if "to shame the meanness" of their humble dress, we observed a number of cavalry officers, in their rich variegated costume, mounted on superb horses, galloping up the steep mounds, then down again, checking their fiery steeds in mid-gallop. Their principal commander, dressed in a magnificent scarlet cloak, embroidered vest, and costly shawl, with a fine horse and sabre, appeared, from his luxuriant carrotty mustachios, to be some German renegade: though, on the day before, I had seen an Arab with a red beard; and even mummies have been found with hair of this colour. A large building, with numerous glass windows and green blinds, situated at the northern entrance to the town, is one of the Pasha's abandoned cotton manufactories, now converted into a hospital. One of the principal mosques of the city has been undermined by the Nile; which, unless artificially dammed off, will soon wash away the whole town.

CXLVI. The great sugar plantations of Egypt commence a little to the north of Benisooëf; and these, together with the dhourra, seem to occupy all the industry of the inhabitants, there being few fields of tobacco, wheat, or cotton, or indigo plantations. Sucking the raw sugar-cane is a great piece of luxury

with the Arabs; and, in reality, the juice has a pleasant taste. One of my crew, a Nubian, having obtained a small advance from the *reis*, here deserted. The Arab servants of Europeans generally behave very insolently towards their countrymen. This morning, in the bazār, the hajji took an old man by the beard, because he laughed at him for offering too little for his goods; and struck another person in the face for daring to speak, no doubt impertinently, about the article which he was buying. He depended upon the respect which is every where shown to the English: alone, he would not have dared to act thus for his life. Reprimands, however, have very little effect in checking his passions, for as often as the occasion presents itself, the fault is repeated. In the course of the day, we passed *Beni Amrous*, *Isment*, and *Halabieh*; and moored, in the evening, on a wild uninhabited part of the shore, not far from the village of *Malakhah*. The doves seem to prefer the *mimosa* to the palm tree, being generally found most numerous in groves where the former predominates. In this part of the country, the dhourra stalk acquires the height of twelve feet, as in Rajpootana; and women stand in the midst of the fields, on small towers, to watch the grain, and frighten away the birds with slings. We have, to-day, passed several Arab shepherds following their flocks, playing on a double-reed pipe, much resembling in tone a bad bagpipe. Much rain fell during the morning, and several storms passed at a distance over the eastern desert. Our mooring-place being far from houses, the jackals were exceed-

ingly numerous in the neighbourhood; and their loud, shrill, agonising cry, mingling with the whistling of the wind, sounded fearfully in the darkness of the night.

Wednesday, Dec. 19. Off *Bibbé*.

CXLVII. Started with the dawn; and, soon after sunrise, came in sight of the united villages of *Baranga* and *Beni Maadi*; the site of which, on a noble bend of the river, is worthy of a capital city, and, in many respects, resembles that of Benares. The Nile here makes a large semicircular sweep; into which, on the Arabian side, there projects a low sandy promontory, backed by cultivated fields, terminating behind at the foot of the lofty rampart of rocks which bound the sacred valley towards the east. On the African shore, which, together with the river, stretches round this promontory in the form of a half-moon, stand *Baranga* and *Beni Maadi*, with their lofty castellated dove-houses, embosomed in superb groves of palms, which extend in stately avenues along the margin of the Nile, united, as it were, below, by a thick undergrowth of tamarisks and mimosas. The fields round the villages were covered with fine young grass, and *bersim*, or Egyptian clover. Here we observed, for the first time in Egypt, a number of turkeys among the barn-door fowl.

CXLVIII. A little below *Bibbé*, and the island which there divides the channel of the river, the Arabian mountains literally project their bases into

the stream, and with their bare and rugged front, unrelieved by a single blade of verdure, with the edges of their different strata all laid open to the eye, present an exceedingly desolate and barren aspect; yet their summits, viewed from the groves of *Baranga*, through the silvery haze of the morning, wore a beautiful cerulean tint, like the airy pinnacles of the Alps. On the island off Bibbé there is a small hamlet in a grove; the first I saw on any island in the Nile. It may not, perhaps, be considered foreign to the subject, if with exceeding thankfulness I here remark, for the encouragement of future travellers, that ever since I had been on the river my health appeared to be improving daily, until at length mere physical existence, the very act of breathing, was a luxury. Persons who have passed over lofty table-lands, or along the summits of vast mountains, or even traversed the desert, have often observed in themselves the same pleasurable sensations, which in all such cases they would no doubt attribute to the lightness and purity of the air. But in the low humid valley of the Nile some other cause must be sought; and this I suppose to be the lightness of our food, the excellence of the water, constant exercise, and the gentle excitement of the imagination by novel objects; for the changes of the weather were frequent and violent. In the morning of this day, for example, it was mild and balmy, like spring; in the afternoon, a keen cold wind swept over the river, which made the extremities tingle, as in sharp frosty weather. When the sun was out, it was, in fact,

summer ; if a cloud covered him, the rigours of winter were felt. Up to this period, we every day had clouds at intervals, generally rain. Indeed, nothing can be more incorrect than the opinion that it never rains in this part of Egypt. During the first week we were on the Nile, it rained at least ten times, not slightly or sparingly, as if the climate were not used to it, but in long, heavy, drenching showers, which thoroughly soaked the earth, and must have been greatly useful in forwarding the processes of vegetation. All these vicissitudes of the atmosphere appeared, however, to have no ill effect upon our constitution ; and, indeed, if travelling in general be productive of such health, and physical and mental elasticity, as we experienced in Egypt and Nubia, we need no longer wonder at man's passion for locomotion, or at his aversion for sedentariness and inactivity.

CXLIX. Herodotus, who yet had curiously studied whatever related to Egypt and its river, asserts that there springs up from the Nile no breeze, as from other streams. In this, however, he is certainly mistaken, for I have always felt, on approaching its banks, a cool air stirring, even when its surface was most smooth and unruffled ; and this atmospheric current invariably appeared, in calm days, to move in the same direction as the watery current below. This evening, a little before sunset, I observed two rainbows, one after the other, the first I had witnessed in Egypt ; and not long afterwards

there fell a smart shower. During the appearance of these phænomena, the whole aspect of the scene by which we were surrounded was in the highest degree *picturesque*, if the elements of a picture consist in remarkable contrasts, in beauty and wildness, fertility and desolation, — a magnificent sky of gold, sprinkled with patches of ebony, a rainbow of peculiar splendour, fields of inimitable verdure, herds of camels and buffaloes, flocks of sheep, rocks, forests, expanses of yellow sand, and a river of vast breadth, reflecting, like a mirror, the glittering light of the sun. Add to this, the effect of renowned names upon the imagination. The land before us was that of Egypt; the river, the Nile; the mountains upon which the sun was darting his farewell beams, were the Arabian chain; and the boundless sands behind which he was about to sink, were the Libyan desert.

CL. This remark leads to the consideration of the causes which render this famous valley so deeply interesting, whether we view it for ourselves, or only behold it through the eyes of others. It is certainly neither the fertility of Egypt, nor its commercial importance, nor yet its ruins and celebrity, mighty as they are, which form the charm that fascinates the imagination of the traveller. It is, in fact, the beholding of the principles of fertility and barrenness, of destruction and reproduction, of life and death, — the Osiris and Typhon of the mythology, — operating undisguisedly, side by side. On the one hand the Nile,

“ imitating Heaven,” scatters life and abundance ;— on the other the Desert, with its whirlwinds, its poisonous blasts, its mountains of shifting sand, is ever ready to be lifted up and precipitated upon the fruitful valley, extinguishing and obliterating in a moment the labours of centuries. Such are the elements of an Egyptian landscape, which, whatever it may lack, possesses a grandeur and sublimity not less characteristic than that of the Alps, with their peaks of snow and eternal glaciers. Roaming here, in the winter of the tropics and their confines, Caravaggio or Salvator Rosa might have found an inexhaustible series of terrible subjects, such as, faithfully represented, so far as Art can represent faithfully the majesty of Nature, would have moved the soul to its centre.

CLI. In the date groves of the Heptanomis we find rookeries of great promise, which, as we walk out in the morning, remind us strongly of England ; and every thing which does this, is delightful. We yesterday saw on the bank of the river a company of Arabs playing at a very remarkable game, which I do not remember to have seen noticed by any traveller. The player holds in his hand four thin pieces of palm wood, about a foot long, which he throws up a little way into the air, and according to the figure which they describe in falling, he wins or loses. I could not, however, even with the aid of the hajji, quite make out the principle of the game. The advances of those who win are marked by two small stones,

one for each player, which are moved in a certain direction towards a stick fixed upright in the earth, and he whose pebble first reaches this goal, appears to be the victor. Here we met several boats coming down the river from Upper Egypt, laden with straw, which formed a curious sight. The straw, apparently bound up in small sheaves, is laid upon poles projecting laterally from either side of the vessel, and built up to the height of sixteen or twenty feet, in the form of a square, diminishing towards the summit, so smooth that no wind could find a corner in it, and so evenly balanced that it seldom endangers the equilibrium of the boat. The crew, having barely standing-room on board, generally cook on shore, and at night sleep, I imagine, on the straw. In the fields this afternoon I observed the mode in which the young camels are weaned. The udder of the dam being covered by a close netting of rope, strapped round the body, and fastened on the back, in such a way that the foal, finding it impossible to undo it, fatigues itself in useless efforts to obtain its usual nourishment; and I saw several foals following their dams in this condition. We moored at night nearly opposite the village of *Schment Arab*, which lies at a short distance from the river.

Thursday, Dec. 20. *Sheikh Embarak.*

CLII. This morning the Nile and the whole valley were covered with a thick white mist, which wet every thing like rain, and rendered all objects invisible beyond the length of the kandjia; but when

this cleared away the sun shone forth brilliantly, and the whole plain appeared to be strewed with orient pearl ; every blade of grass bending beneath the big glittering dew-drops. The western mountains here recede so far from the stream that they are scarcely discernible ; while, on the east, the rocks descend to the water's edge. Near *Feshn*, anciently *Fenchî*, their formation is most extraordinary : a level summit above, from which descend long wavy hillocks of sand, resting below on a bed of limestone rock. On the western bank, near the village, many boats were building. Here the wind became fair, for the first time, and I accordingly remained in my boat. The weather as warm as in June.

Friday, Dec. 21. Off *Sharaouné*.

CLIII. Unfortunately both wind and weather changed during the night ; the former becoming quite contrary, and the latter very cold. We left *Sheikh Embarak* early in the morning, and, returning round the northern point of *Geziret el Sharaouné*, entered the western channel of the river ; shortly after which we passed a village where a great number of *kandjias*, *daábiyahs*, and *máshas* were drawn up along the shore, some waiting for lading, others detained by contrary winds. We proceeded by tracking. Both the flies and mosquitoes (the latter of which were very troublesome during the first night of our sleeping on the river) have now left us ; the mosquitoes entirely, and the flies nearly so. We yesterday saw grasshoppers in the fields, almost equal

in size to small birds ; and I one day picked up near the river a dead *scarabæus*, about two inches long, by one inch broad. These grasshoppers take long flights, and abound in the high grass. The bright sunshine having infused a peculiar vigour into all nature, the whole earth seemed to smile as during the pleasant days of summer, the surface of the river was serene, and the skylarks, mounting aloft into the balmy air, poured forth their joyous songs, as if spring were already come ; and the voice of the turtle-dove was heard in our land.

CLIV. The physiognomy of the natives is visibly changed. Day after day, as we mount the stream, they appear to grow more swarthy, and betray greater familiarity with the sun ; yet there are curious anomalies, which may, perhaps, be so many distinguishing marks of that strange mixture of races which commerce and conquest have effected in this country. In the same village you may observe individuals, particularly children, with complexions nearly as fair as those of Europeans, beside persons, born next door, who are almost black. There is, also, in many faces, a singular blending of the Arab with the Negro style of features, which likewise becomes more and more perceptible as we advance. Herodotus describes the ancient Egyptians as black, but handsome ; which, to a certain extent, is true of the present pure Nubian race, who appear to have a better claim to be regarded as the descendants of the old temple-builders than the wretched *Copts*, who are mongrels

both in blood and language. Perhaps, too, the dialects of Nubia, if carefully and honestly studied, might throw more light upon Egyptian antiquities than the Coptic is ever likely to do. Bishop Heber seems to think that the dark bronze complexion of Asiatic nations, which does not, even at first sight, offend the eye, may be the natural colour of man. The deep olive tinge of the Hindoo is certainly more pleasing than the redder brown of the Arab; but it may be remarked of both, that if they do not offend at first sight, they quickly, when the illusion of novelty is over, become disagreeable, where the passions are not allowed to interfere with the decisions of the judgment. I have hitherto seen none of those beautiful Abyssinian girls, of whom travellers give such voluptuous descriptions; nor, among the young Bedouin women, who are more lovely than the Abyssinians, have I observed one that could, with truth, be denominated beautiful. Many of them have pretty faces, and nearly all possess large dark eyes; but, in my opinion, they are universally deficient in those graces which bask in the countenance of an European beauty, and constitute her principal charm.

CLV. The Egyptians, in the time of Herodotus, were noted ichthyophagi; but the moderns by no means follow their example. In fact, the Nile appears to furnish no great quantity or variety of fish; and, with the exception of the eel, all those species found in it have a muddy and insipid flavour. In the

small lakes, ponds, and canals, — every where abounding, immediately after the inundation, — immense quantities of fish are caught, and brought to Cairo for sale : we met a number of asses laden with large panniers full of them on our visit to the Pyramids. Indeed, November, when the waters of the Nile have not as yet wholly retired from the fields, is the month in which fish is most plentiful in Egypt. I could never find that the species caught in such numbers in those ponds and lakes abound also in the river : their eggs seem to remain in the sand from one year to another, and to be vivified, at the proper season, by the plastic waters ; as is the case with those fish which, immediately after the rains of the monsoon, appear in the ponds and tanks of India, though dry for many months previous.

CLVI. The wind, which all day had blown strongly from the south-east, died away about an hour before sunset, leaving the sky almost free from clouds ; and the sun went down behind the desert in indescribable splendour. Around the descending luminary the sky was of a bright gold colour, which, rapidly changing to saffron, to violet, to purple, at length yielded to the deep cerulean tint of an oriental night ; and these changes were faithfully represented on the glassy surface of the river, then appearing to merit, more than ever, the epithet of ἀντίμιμον οὐρανοῦ *, bestowed on it by

* “ Mimic of Heaven.”

the ancient Egyptians. Here and there thick clusters of palm-trees waved their pendent branches over the margin of the stream, in this part fringed with reeds. We moored at night on a wild unfrequented shore, which enjoyed the reputation of being much infested with robbers, who, coming down armed with knives and pistols, attack vessels in the dark ; and, therefore, for greater security, our captains fastened their boats alongside of several others, whose crews were, no doubt, glad enough of this accession of strength. My companion's *reis* had formerly been robbed near this spot, where two Arab boatmen had recently been murdered. When Ibrahim Pasha passed this way, on his return from Sennaar, he commanded the *kiasheff* of some of the thievish villages to apprehend and bring before him the robbers who disturbed the navigation of the river. The *kiasheff* at first professed his inability ; but, at length, urged thereto, perhaps, by stripes or menaces, succeeded in apprehending some poor wretch who lay under suspicion of robbery. To compel this man to discover his associates, five hundred lashes of the *koorbash* were administered, which, failing to produce the desired effect, Ibrahim ordered him to be stripped, and beaten with rods of red-hot iron until he should confess. Incapable of resisting the force of this terrific species of torture, he now, possibly at random, accused two hundred of his neighbours, one hundred and fifty of whom were executed. But, considering the uncertainty of such evidence, they may, probably, after all, have been every one innocent.

Saturday, Dec. 22. Nearly off *Mattai*.

CLVII. Before we left our resting-place the sun rose beautifully, promising the fine day that succeeded. Some of the villages in this neighbourhood are of considerable extent, and have well-stocked and well-attended bazārs, such as that of *Benimazar*, where even ball-cartridges were exposed for sale. They are all, however, on the western bank. On the opposite side, the desert advances almost to the edge of the stream, leaving in some places barely space for a long straggling line of date-trees, or a narrow belt of sedge or tall grass, affording a scanty pasture to their camels, buffaloes, and cows. When this becomes too coarse or rank for fodder, or if the ground is required for other purposes, they set it on fire, and the flames, spreading far and wide before the wind, rage with incredible violence, mounting aloft into the air, running rapidly along the ground, and exhibiting to the traveller a scene of extraordinary grandeur.

CLVIII. One of these conflagrations I witnessed to-day. Walking slowly along the river, admiring the richness and beauty of the western plain, my attention was suddenly attracted to the opposite shore by large volumes of smoke rising from among the reeds and long grass. At first the smoke ascended silently, and was diffused through the pure atmosphere, which it stained but for a moment ; while bright flashes of fire appeared through the rolling vapour. Presently there was heard a noise resem-

bling the quickly repeated discharges of musketry, as if the whole army of Upper Egypt had been assembled there in mock fight. While musing on this fancy, numerous pyramids of dark red flame were seen on various parts of the plain, the crackling of the burning reeds became terrific, and the conflagration spread with incredible velocity ; for the wind, blowing strongly from the south-west, actively propagated the flames, until at length nearly the whole country seemed but one vast bed of fire, from which clouds of black smoke issued on every side. In the background was the desert, whose white salt-like surface glittered in the sun ; and the plain, on the western bank, with its beautiful corn-fields, woods, and villages, afforded a striking contrast to this sublime spectacle.

CLIX. In this part of the country all the peasants go armed, some with muskets or pistols, others with a short rude spear, shod with iron. Here, at a short distance from the river, we saw the remains of what seemed to have been an old Bedouin encampment — clay walls of huts, things like fire-places standing in long rows, with small earthen divans, and other domestic contrivances of which we could not conjecture the use. Near the ruins we found an Arab employed in gathering sedge, with a very primitive implement, which he used most dexterously, twisting it in the sedge, and, with a jerk or two, bringing up a considerable quantity by the roots. In all the villages a

number of men are constantly engaged spinning wool, and sometimes cotton, in a very simple manner. A square piece of wood, about half an inch in diameter, and eight inches in length, is inserted at one end into the centre of a small, flat board, about two inches and a half long, by one inch and a half broad, which is furnished, on its upper side, with a small iron hook. The end of the yarn, drawn through this hook, is passed round the edge of the board, and fastened to the square spindle; which the spinner turns with his left hand, while he forms the thread and holds the wool with his right. It is thus that the greater part of their coarse garments are spun.

CLX. Poets and travellers speak with enthusiasm of the sunsets of Italy, Switzerland, and Greece. I have seen the sun go down in each of those countries, but never with half the splendour which on this day accompanied his disappearance; and could I succeed in reflecting upon the reader's imagination half the grandeur of this gorgeous show, he would, unquestionably, concur with me in thinking that, but for its evanescent nature, it was far more worth a voyage to Egypt even than the Pyramids. No sooner had the sun's disk disappeared behind the Libyan desert, than the whole western sky along the edge of the horizon assumed a colour which, for want of a better term, I shall call golden: but it was a mingling of orange, saffron, straw-colour, dashed with red. A little higher, these bold tints melted into a singular kind of green,

like that of a spring leaf prematurely faded ; and over this extended an arch of palish light, like that of an aurora borealis, conducting the eye to a flush of deep violet colour, which formed the ground-work of the sky, on to the very skirts of darkness. Through all these semicircles of different hues, superimposed upon each other, there ascended, as from a furnace, vast pyramidal irradiations of crimson light, most distinctly divided from each other, and terminating in a point ; and the contrast between these blood-red flashes, and the various strata of colours which they traversed, was so extraordinary, that I am persuaded no combination of light and shade ever produced a more wonderful or glorious effect.

Sunday, Dec. 23. Near *Semelúd*.

CLXI. On leaving our moorings at *Mattai*, we hoisted sail, and crossed the river to *Nesle Sheikh Hassan* ; and the morning being beautiful, we quitted the boats earlier than usual to enjoy the scene. The white sand of the desert, now glittering in the bright sunshine, close approached almost up to the edge of the Nile, which was bordered by vast ledges of conchylaceous rock, resembling that found by Xenophon in Mesopotamia.* Capacious cisterns had been excavated (I know not for what purpose) in these rocks, close to the river ; but, as the city of *Cynopolis*

* The walls of Agrigentum, in Sicily, or at least what now remains of them, are constructed with similar stone.

stood somewhere in this neighbourhood, I conjecture they may formerly have been used by its inhabitants as filtering basins.* As we were in search of the "City of the Dog," of which Anubis, I presume, was the patron god, an enormous block of stone, standing alone on the plain, attracted our attention, and towards this we proceeded across the desert, whose sands are thickly sprinkled with small shells, similar to those which enter into the composition of the rock. Proceeding some distance, we discovered, on the north, what appeared to be the ruins of a castle, standing on the brow of an eminence; towards which we turned aside; and on the way observed in the sand innumerable prints of the feet of some small animal, probably the jackal, so numerous in these deserts, and whose nightly howlings remind me of Circe's monsters, *sera sub nocte rudentum*. It was the *jackal*, by the way, and not the *dog*, that was the symbol of Anubis, who is represented on all the monuments of Egypt with the head of the former.

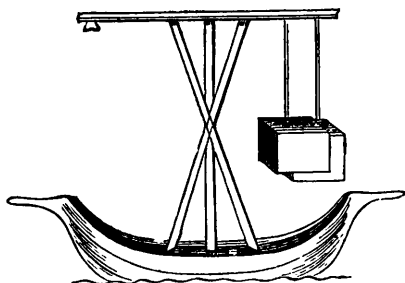
CLXII. After a walk of about two miles, we reached the object of our curiosity, which we found to be the ruins of a spacious brick building, of Arab construction, divided into several chambers, all now unroofed, and open to the desert blast, a large portion

* That is, the Nile water may have been allowed to deposit its impurities in these basins before it was drunk. In Egypt, they use the water which *remains* in the filtering jar; in Syria, *that which passes through it*.

of the walls having been thrown down ; but there appeared to be no data for determining its antiquity. From thence we proceeded to the Rocky Mountains, —which, when viewed from the river, formed the background of this desolate scene, —crossing in our way what in the rainy season were evidently the beds of torrents, the course of the waters being abundantly visible. One of these channels was fifty-one yards in breadth ; another seventy ; and a third, further to the south, upwards of a hundred. In these torrent beds we observed several small prickly plants, bearing a diminutive, delicate purple flower, with five petals, which, in the absence of all other vegetation, seemed to possess peculiar beauty.

CLXIII. On reaching the vast masses of rock, above mentioned, we found that they had been hewn into the form of temples, chapels, tanks ; some much dilapidated, others in a state of excellent preservation. One small chapel excited our admiration : the doorway, which was of moderate size, stood under a kind of projection, like the deep eaves of a Swiss cottage, probably designed to afford shade to the worshippers, who, like the Hindoo votaries of Bhairava, may have performed their devotions in the porch of the fane. The chapel had been cut with great care in the solid rock, and was about sixteen feet long, by twelve broad, with an arched roof, in which an aperture had been made, by some modern troglodyte, to admit light from above. The Egyptians “loved

darkness better than light." Opposite the door, towards the east, is an altar, slightly projecting from the rock ; and on the right hand, a broad border of *Acanthus* leaves, elegantly sculptured, adorns the lower part of the wall. The remainder, I imagine, has been obliterated. On the southern side of the apartment are various representations of the *Baris*, or Sacred Boat ; but these have been purposely defaced. Similar figures on the north have suffered less ; and the *Kteis-Phallus*, erroneously denominated the " Key of the Nile," occupies its constant position in these sculptures. Among other figures, there is one of a boat, representing the removal of stones from a quarry on the Nile.* It is shaped thus : —



CLXIV. From these rock temples we proceeded towards the immense block of stone which had first attracted our curiosity to the spot. The distance was considerable, and, in walking along, we found a woman at work among the sands, whose employment

* Near this chapel we found, in a niche in the rock, an altar, surmounted by an illegible Greek inscription, above which was an image of the sun.

at once explained to us the cause of that extraordinary number of small shallow pits, which we had at first attributed to wild beasts. This poor solitary creature was crouching down, with a simple implement in her hand, digging for salt, which is here found not above three inches below the surface, dazzlingly white, and pure ; and the mine, if properly worked, might supply all Egypt, and yield a very large revenue to the Pasha. We each purchased of her a small quantity, and I added to the price of it a trifling present, for which she was exceedingly thankful.

CLXV. The stone which from afar we had supposed to be but one block, was found, upon drawing near, to consist of three pieces, the largest of which is of extraordinary magnitude, by far the most prodigious mass of solid rock I have ever seen. It rests on the summit of a high mound, and appears to have been formerly surrounded by a wall ; for immense quantities of broken brick are scattered around. No doubt the Egyptians had entertained the design of converting it into a monolithic temple, for its northern face still presents some appearance of sculptured metopes, in the form of bulls' heads, though time has obliterated much of their labour ; but had the intention been fulfilled, it would greatly have surpassed in dimensions the celebrated monolith of *Saïs*. At the foot of its northern and southern face a semi-arch, probably once completed with masonry,

has been hollowed out ; from which it is probable that it was originally surrounded with a low colonnade, like the cloisters of a nunnery ; from an opening cut at the top of its western face, I moreover imagine it to be hollowed out within ; but as it is at least sixty feet in height, and perpendicular on all sides, we could not determine this point, being unable to cast up stones sufficiently large to enable us to hear the sound of their fall. Its length is about sixty, and its breadth between thirty and forty, feet.

CLXVI. Another enormous rock, on the summit of a hillock commanding an extensive view over the wide plains of the Hermopolitan Nome, has been hewn into numerous chambers, niches, altars, &c., together with a rude negro-headed sphynx. Between these rocks and the river are many large mounds, consisting chiefly of brick and pottery ; among which several excavations appear to have been recently made. Here we picked up a small bronze coin, but too much defaced to allow of our making out the image or superscription. These mounds undoubtedly mark the site of some ancient city, most probably of Cynopolis ; but to ascertain this point it would be necessary to undertake many laborious excavations. On descending to the river, we found a party of Arabs seated in a circle, feasting and making merry at the foot of a palm-tree. Here a series of rocky promontories, black and honey-combed, project into the Nile, or hang beetling over its waters. Numbers of tamarisk-

trees, of diminutive growth, sprung from their crevices; and the edge of the stream below is feathered with the golden willow. On this spot we saw a grasshopper, about two inches in length, so exactly of the colour of straw, that it was not to be distinguished from it in hue on the strictest comparison.

CLXVII. Crossing from this point to the western bank, in order to make round the island of *Surarieh*, by the wider and deeper channel, we walked on to the large and populous village, or rather town, of *Kolokosaneh*, where we found coffee-houses, and *almé* of the most dissolute kind; and proceeding thence by clean pathways leading through gardens and mimosa woods, over a country richly cultivated with wheat, dhourra, and sugar-cane, here springing up at the foot of the loftiest date-trees, we arrived at *Semelúd*, a large and thickly peopled town, with a mosque and noble minaret, towering aloft, white and glittering, among a forest of palms. Still further to the west was a wood of the same trees, but with their intervals so completely filled up by an undergrowth of acacias, tamarisks, and mimosas, that the whole appeared, at a distance, like the rich masses of verdure of an English forest. Night and mooring-time approaching, we struck into a narrow pathway leading to the Nile. It was a lovely evening, soft and balmy as June, the south wind having died away to a gentle breeze, which wafted far and wide the perfume of the bean-fields, now in full blossom,

mingled with the mild fragrance of the ripe dhourra, which the husbandmen were threshing with long sticks in the fields. A rich old Turk, mounted on a well-fed black donkey, and followed by an attendant with a fine led horse, travelled with us for several hours. The boys, playing on the greensward about the different villages, saluted us civilly as we passed, with the *salām aleycum*, to which we returned the customary *aleycum salam!* They appeared to be well fed and happy; a thing of rare occurrence in Egypt. We reached the banks of the river a few hundred yards to the north of the point where the gloomy frowning cliffs of the *Gebel et Teir*, or “Mountain of Birds,” hang over the Nile; and there moored for the night.

Monday, Dec. 24. *Hawartah.*

CLXVIII. The land in this part of the Hermopolitan Nome is in many places covered with a tall sedge, which looks as verdant and beautiful as sugar-cane. The peasants, early in the morning, were busily at work in the fields, some getting in the dhourra, others preparing the ground for another crop. The Egyptian plough, though originally invented by Osiris, is perhaps the rudest instrument of its kind now in use, consisting merely of three pieces of wood, of which two form the handle and the third the share. No iron is used in its construction, excepting a small band which keeps together its several parts. Two cows or bullocks yoked together by a long beam of

wood, from the centre of which the plough is suspended, draw the rude machine along. The animals at work in the fields through which we passed, being refractory, or unused to the labour, constantly ran out of the right course, and drew from their director, who was ambitious of exhibiting his best skill before the strangers, the opprobrious epithet of *kelb*, or “dog,” which an angry Arab applies indiscriminately to man or beast. The ploughman was followed by an older man, his father or master, who, with a light kind of hoe or mattock, broke the rough clods left among the furrows: a very necessary process after such imperfect tillage.

CLXIX. The vast perpendicular cliffs of the *Bird Mountains*, now in the morning sun no longer gloomy, continue for some miles to confine the course of the stream towards the east, until at length a sinuosity in the river leaves between it and their base a narrow strip of ground, which is brought into cultivation. A little to the north of the village of *Gebel et Teir*, there is a break in the chain, where the rocks bend inward in a semicircle, about the centre of which they have been shattered, rent, and bored by the labour of man; and on the small sandy plain lying between the horns of this half moon, we saw the ruins of an ancient wall, which seems to have extended from mountain to mountain, filling up the space left open by the retreating of the rocks. In the face of the cliffs were numerous catacombs or grottoes, to examine which we here crossed the Nile. It soon

became evident why the Arabian chain is in this part called the “ Mountain of Birds ;” for the number of cormorants and wild ducks frequenting it is prodigious. Every day, early in the morning, they arrive in vast flights from the desert, the rustling of their wings in the wind, though at a great height above our heads, sounding like the rushing of a storm ; and having reached the mountains, settle in clouds upon the rocks, descending at intervals, and diving for fish, which must here be very plentiful, in the deep waters below.

CLXX. We found the excavations small and insignificant, though there were several openings which, when cleansed, may lead to more spacious chambers. The ruined wall is of sun-dried brick, and appears to have run quite across the sandy valley, wherever inaccessible rocks did not render it unnecessary. On an eminence near the middle are the ruins of a fort or castle. The mountain is here split into several smaller ridges, between which as many narrow rugged gorges open a way into the Arabian desert. Two or three women employed, like her of Cynopolis, in digging for salt, alarmed at our approach, made their escape, like a flock of wild goats, among the cliffs ; but presently reappeared accompanied by a number of Bedouins, who came running towards us with their long ugly spears, but were soon checked in their career by the sight of our arms. The heat in this sandy hollow, though very

great, was far from disagreeable, yet it probably exceeded the temperature of Burgundy in July.

CLXXI. From these nameless ruins we proceeded along the foot of the mountains towards the village, dogged by two Arabs, one of whom was armed with a spear and sword, and had as truculent an aspect as any galley-slave in Tuscany, where you are elbowed at every turning by a murderer in chains. Here we saw a number of eagles, equal or superior in size to the *lämmmergeyer* of the Alps, floating about in the air, or perched among the precipices, which seemed to me greatly to exceed in height the cliffs of Dover. The village of *Gebel et Teir*, situated in a narrow valley between rugged precipitous cliffs, is one of the most savage-looking places I have any where beheld ; but as it contains no ruins, we contented ourselves with a cursory glance, and continued our walk towards *Teheneh*, supposed to stand on the site of *Achoris*. The rocks which here form the basis or lower stratum of the mountain, seem to contain iron ore, and are honeycombed to the height of seventy or eighty feet, like the cliffs on the sea-shore, or those lofty precipices of the Aravulli range, in Rajpootana, described by Colonel Tod. At *Teheneh* we saw a Saracenic archway, several Roman ruins, fragments of square columns with Egyptian capitals, sacrificial stone troughs, a statue of Isis half buried in the rubbish, with innumerable catacombs, inscriptions, &c. ; but the day being far spent, we deferred a complete examination of the place until the morrow.

CHAPTER XI.

NECROPOLIS OF ACHORIS — GREEK PTOLEMAIC INSCRIPTION — SEPULCHRAL CHAMBERS — SITE OF ACHORIS — ANCIENT CHAPEL — TWELVE GODS OF EGYPT — ASCENT OF THE MOUNTAIN — TANK EXCAVATED IN THE ROCK — ROMAN BASSI-RILIEVI — MILDNESS AND BEAUTY OF AN EGYPTIAN WINTER — BROWN EAGLE — RUINED VILLAGE — BREADTH OF THE NILE — DESCRIPTION OF MINIEH — CHEAPNESS OF BREAD, ETC. — DWELLINGS OF PILGRIMS — SEPULCHRAL MONUMENTS AT BENIHASSAN — EGYPTIAN TRIAD — ANCIENT PAINTED CHAMBERS — CAVE OF DIANA — VILLAGE CEMETERY — SUGAR REFINERY — BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE — ISLANDS IN THE RIVER — FLESH OF THE CROCODILE — MOONLIGHT ON THE NILE — MANFALOOT — ARAB STORY-TELLERS — AFFECTING PARTING SCENE.

Tuesday, Dec. 25. *Minieh.*

CLXXII. HAVING sent forward our kandjias to Minieh where it was our intention to dine, we returned across the plain to the Necropolis of Achoris, where our first operation was to copy a Greek Ptolemaic inscription*, engraved in very beautiful characters on a tablet smoothed out in the face of the mountain, about fifty feet above the plain, over the commencement of a flight of steps, cut in the rock, and leading to the catacombs above. Sepulchral

* This inscription is very imperfect; but what remains of it runs as follows:—ΥΓΕ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ ΘΕΟΥ ΕΓΗΑΝΟΥΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΟΥ ΑΚΟΡΙΣ Ν-Ε--ΩΣΙΣ ΔΙΜΩΧΙΑ ΛΙΧΩ-ΕΙΡΜΙ--.

chambers perforate the mountain on all sides ; several large and lofty ones being excavated in the perpendicular cliff, overlooking the plain, which must be approached over rugged rocks and sloping dangerous terraces. In these we found large square pillars, niches or recesses, apparently intended for the reception of images, and square wells or mummy-pits, not less than fifty feet in depth, with their mouths half concealed by rubbish. Proceeding from these catacombs round the northern side of the mountain, which is an isolated mass of rock, we cast a hasty glance over the site of the ancient city situated in the entrance to a valley, which, commencing in a narrow gorge, gradually grows wider and wider, until it opens into the plain. The whole space was now covered with red mounds, rough with the fragments of broken columns, capitals, friezes, and architraves, scattered around in fantastic desolation.

CLXXIII. Among these mounds, and in the greater number of the sepulchral apartments, we found little worthy of attention ; but our guide from *Teheneh* at length conducted us to a small chapel excavated in the perpendicular face of the mountain, about two hundred feet above the level of the plain, which, notwithstanding its diminutive dimensions, will be thought worthy of examination even by those who have beheld the vast hypogea of Upper Egypt and Nubia. A narrow flight of steps cut in the rock formerly led up to this chapel from a terrace extending along the cliff ; but these time or bar-

barism has now partly destroyed. The present approaches are dangerous, as you have to pass along a narrow and slippery ledge of rock, where it requires considerable caution to avoid being precipitated over the cliff upon the pointed rocks below. Arriving at the chapel, the elegant doorway first commands attention: on the right hand you observe the symbol of *Knuphis*, a large *cobra di capello*, elegantly twisted round the crosier of Osiris, with his head turned toward the north; and, on either side of the Serpent God, several lotus stems with half closed flowers. The figure on the opposite side of the doorway is that of a mortal, probably one of the Ptolemaic governors of the city, with bare head and folding garments reaching to the knee, in a style approaching the Grecian, holding in the left hand a basket of flowers, and in the right the symbol of Isis and Osiris united, the point of which is resting within the calyx of a lotus flower. But whoever the mortal here depicted may be, he was doubtless the occupant of the tomb, and these sculptures represent his apotheosis, or reception among the infernal gods in the regions of *Amenti*; for in all the mystic delineations which adorn the external walls, we observe the same individual, not only with the symbol of eternal life in his hand, but seated, and wielding the bird-headed sceptre, like the other divinities, though his head is still unadorned with the mitre. Among the various groups found here, one of the most remarkable is that of a mortal bearing three lotuses on his head, and accompanied by a dog, which is looking up inquiringly at its

master. The globe, guarded by the serpent head of the Agathodæmon, adorns the architrave ; and on the cornice there is a winged orb, much dilapidated.

CLXXIV. Upon entering the chamber, which is in a high state of preservation, you imagine yourself in a kind of miniature Egyptian pantheon, all the greater gods of Egypt being sculptured on the walls, all in movement, engaged in some grand procession, probably conducting the deceased mortal to the foot of Osiris's throne : Chemmis orthophallus, Ammon, Phthah, Thoth, Anubis, Osiris, and Isis suckling the boy Horus, who, though the goddess is represented standing, with her right arm thrown about his neck, is still tall enough to reach the breast. On the head of Isis, who greatly resembles the Indian goddess *Bhavani*, is a globe resting between the horns of the young moon, to imply, perhaps, that her generative influence embraces and fertilises the whole earth. Among the figures on the northern wall we remark the same mortal whom we discover without ; unmitred as before, and appearing to be leading a young child into the presence of Osiris, whose face is turned graciously towards him.

CLXXV. From this chapel we proceeded to walk round the mountain, which is scarped on all sides into steep and almost inaccessible cliffs, in search of some ravine or fissure by which we might ascend its lofty summit, where, as we conjectured from information received at Cairo, there existed a spacious

tank excavated in the rock. Finding at length a break in the precipice, we succeeded in making our way, through chasms and narrow crevices, up the almost perpendicular acclivity of the mountain, and, arriving at the top, which commands a view of prodigious extent over the desert and the valley of the Nile, discovered the reservoir, which had evidently been wrought with the greatest care. It was about twenty-two feet in length, by sixteen in breadth; the depth we could not ascertain, since it was in a great measure filled up with rubbish; but it probably descended to the level of the river, and was thence supplied with water. No doubt there formerly stood on this impregnable height some castle or fortress for the use of whose occupants this well or reservoir was intended; though of such a building no trace now remains. But from the hollow sound which the rock in many places returned to our footsteps, it seems probable that it contains within its bowels many tombs or sepulchral excavations, the entrances to which have not yet been discovered.

CLXXVI. Descending from thence to the valley, and skirting in a southerly direction round the hill, we discovered a group of Roman *bassi-rilievi*, sculptured on a kind of sunken tablet, in the rock, about twenty-five feet from the ground, consisting of three human figures, of which the central one, colossal and seated, may probably represent Jupiter, whose figure is much obliterated; but its head appears to be surmounted by the globe of the sun or moon. On either

side of this Deity is a male figure curbing a fiery horse; and these have been thought greatly to resemble the group of Castor and Pollux at Rome. Whether they be intended for those two sons of Leda or not, they have stars over their heads, and are dressed in short armour, with a kind of tippet on the breast and shoulders, rather in the Egyptian style. The heads and fore parts of the horses are executed in a bold and vigorous manner, but the hinder parts are concealed by the bodies of their masters.

CLXXVII. From this group, with which we concluded our examination of the Necropolis of Achoris, we descended by a rocky flight of steps to the plain, and, following the pretty rural pathway leading along the foot of the Bird Mountains, directed our course towards *Minieh*. The heat during the whole of this day, — Christmas-day, — was quite as great as during very warm summers in Europe, but had no enervating effect. Skylarks and butterflies on the wing, fields enamelled with bright wild-flowers, eagles and falcons wheeling aloft among the stupendous precipices, and foxes and jackals basking in the sun at their foot, were circumstances at variance with our ideas of winter, which, in fact, was now over for us. There were a great many large caverns in the base of the mountains, which smelled like the dens of wild beasts, and were thickly strewn with bones. As we walked along, Monro brought down from a great height a small brown eagle, which fell like a clod among the rocks, and measured, when his wings were

expanded, at least five feet. At the foot of this desolate range, we ate our noon-day meal ; biscuits, Arab cakes, and a few hard eggs ; — water was a luxury beyond our reach ; — yet no London alderman enjoyed his Christmas dinner better — so keen and uncere- monious were our appetites. On the way to *Minieh*, we passed by a ruined village, picturesquely situated on the slope of a rocky hill ; and, after a walk of several leagues, reached our boats a little before dark, when Suleiman met us with the welcome intelligence that dinner was ready.

Wednesday, Dec. 26. *Sheikh Abadé.*

CLXXVIII. The wind, which had yesterday shifted round to the north, still continuing fair, we rose before the sun, in order to leave *Minieh* early ; but were desirous, before our departure, to examine the appearance of the city, which, according to some writers, occupies the site of the ancient Cynopolis. The Nile, in front of *Minieh*, has been described by one traveller as broad, by another as narrow ; and their disagreement has been regarded as a proof that the relations of travellers are not to be relied on. But the stream is here divided by a low sandy island, and when this is concealed by the waters, the channel is of a magnificent breadth ; but when the Nile shrinks within its banks, and falls below a certain level, the island reappears, and diminishes the grandeur of the river ; and if at this season the observer should confine his view to the branch next to *Minieh*, its breadth would not be extraordinary. The sand-bank

is at present visible ; but rising very little above the level of the river, and being covered in many places with a thin veil of water distributed in small ponds, it might very easily be overlooked, as it does not sensibly interrupt the uniformity of the surface line.

CLXXIX. On entering the town we found it was as yet too early even for the Arabs to be abroad ; very few persons being in the streets, but such as were returning from their morning devotions in the mosques, to which I had heard the voice of the muezzin inviting them long before day. Even the bazār, which is large, neat, and peculiarly clean, was destitute of all signs of activity, excepting two or three women with baskets of nice fresh bread, forty cakes of which were here sold for a piastre, two of which, with tea or coffee, would be a breakfast for a man. Eggs we also found at the rate of forty for a piastre ; and three bottles and a half of new milk for twenty *paras*, or about one penny farthing. In all these towns the coffee-houses, where dancing girls are invariably found, appear to be constantly open. The dwellings of such devout persons as have performed the pilgrimage to Mekka are generally covered with a kind of white stucco, upon which, for I know not what reason, fishes and different kinds of monsters are represented ; and among others, I observed a figure which Suleiman assured me was intended for a crocodile ; but to render the spectator quite certain of this, it would have been necessary to write the name below. The city of *Minieh* contains several mosques, straight

clean streets, and rather neat shops ; and appears to be more populous and opulent than any of the towns farther down the river.

CLXXX. Returning early to our boats, we set sail with a fair wind, and making great way, in spite of the strong current, arrived, about twelve o'clock, at *Benihassan*, the *Speos Artemidos* of D'Anville, where we landed near the first sepulchral chamber. To this, which would appear to have been the principal excavation, a broad way, formerly, I imagine, adorned on either side with a row of pillars, leads directly up the steep side of the mountain. In antiquity the ascent was probably rendered easy by a flight of steps ; but at present you have to toil over a bed of loose rubbish, which gives way at every step. The tombs or temples, — for they appear to have been both, — are excavated in the rock in a straight line, running north and south along the face of the mountain, about half way to the summit ; a broad terrace, also cut in the rock, but now covered with sand and partly broken up, extending in front of them along the hill, and forming an esplanade, upon which all the entrances to the tombs open, like so many street doors. Of these edifices, the first, reckoning from the north, is adorned in front with a spacious and lofty portico, with four large columns, in their proportions and simplicity resembling the Doric ; and consists of two chambers, a *sekos* and an *adytum*, the former of large dimensions, nearly sixty feet in length by forty

in breadth ; the latter small, and once adorned with three figures, in *alto-rilievo*, probably representing Isis, Osiris, and Horus, the Egyptian *Triad*, but now too much mutilated to allow of our deciding any thing respecting them. The surface of the walls, divided into numerous compartments, is covered on all sides with paintings, representing, with more or less success, the domestic occupations and amusements of the ancient Egyptians; and notwithstanding the difference of taste and style, and their decided inferiority, they reminded me of the ancient frescoes of Spinello Aretino and Buffalmacco, in the Campo Santo at Pisa. To enter into any thing like a minute description of the various compartments would be a tiresome and a useless task ; nothing but a series of faithful engravings, coloured on the spot, could ever convey a correct idea of the subjects they represent, or of the manner in which those subjects are treated * ; but thus copied, they would deserve to be carefully studied by the antiquarian, as no relic of antiquity existing in Egypt seems so well calculated to throw light on the manners of its ancient inhabitants. Here, in fact, we see delineated, and not altogether without talent, the mode of tilling the ground ; of gathering in the harvest ; the vintage ; their manner of hunting, fowling, fishing ; their style of dancing, wrestling, &c. A series of figures

* The artists who accompanied M. Champollion in his voyage up the Nile are said to have made coloured drawings of all these paintings ; but I trust, for the honour of the arts, that their judgments were less clouded by prejudice than that of their antiquarian companion.

in one compartment represents the exercise of the several mechanic trades ; while in another we discover, in a numerous group, the quaint and formal order of their feasts. Several of the figures of gods and distinguished mortals, introduced into these domestic pictures, are not uncleverly portrayed ; and the costumes and private dwellings, though they convey no very exalted idea of the grandeur or opulence of their possessors, are executed with considerable spirit and ease. The colours, likewise, in which] the whole has been painted, though less brilliant and finely blended than the descriptions of certain travellers had led me to expect, still, after the lapse of so many centuries, retain their freshness in a very remarkable degree. In the size of the apartments, the number of columns supporting the roof, the figures represented on the walls ; in short, in all their accidents and ornaments, these sepulchral excavations differ greatly from each other. In some, for example, the roof appears to rest upon four massive polyangular columns ; in others, upon ten slender clustered pillars, painted, like the walls of the cathedral of Genoa, with alternate horizontal bands, which here are green and yellow, there black and white. These beautiful columns, resembling those we find in many Gothic structures, seem to represent four lotus stems, bound together by fillets, the united budding flowers forming the capital. From these interesting tombs, which have been greatly defaced by smoke, time, and the rude scratches of the Arabs, we departed reluctantly ; yet not before we had scrawled

our names by the side of many others on a piece of unpainted wall.

CLXXXI. Proceeding in search of the celebrated Σπέος Ἀρτεμίδος, or “Cave of Diana,” on our way we passed the ruined village of *Benihassan*, which in extent appears to have fallen very little short of Minieh ; and having crossed a deep rocky ravine, — the channel, in rainy seasons, of a furious mountain torrent, — we reached the skirts of the modern village, to the east of which a path, turning off towards a wide lateral valley of the Arabian mountains, conducted us through the village cemetery, where a small mound of sand, which would be levelled by the first tempest, with an upright stick at one end, were all the sepulchral honours bestowed upon the dead ; and, in walking hastily along through this humble Necropolis, one of our party sank knee deep into a recent grave. Turning a blunt promontory of the mountain, we entered a savage rocky valley, where, in many parts, the rugged summits of the cliffs overhang their bases, while the bottom has been torn up and rent into chasms by the action of tremendous rain-floods. In this dreary dismal gorge, the goddess Bubastis, if she resembled Artemis, the mountain nymph of Greece, might well have delighted to be worshipped ; for if sterility, solitude, and absolute desolation afforded her contentment, she could nowhere have found a fitter residence. But, in fact, we had not yet discovered her dwelling-place. There were

here, indeed, two or three natural caverns, in the wild rocks overhanging the torrent-bed, but none likely to have been dedicated by the Egyptians to the service of Diana. Suleiman, who had previously been at the cave, for some time ran about in search of the rock temple like a hound at fault ; and, in the meanwhile, we explored numerous small excavations, which seemed to have been formerly inhabited by ascetics, who sought peace and tranquillity of mind in such retreats as these. In one of the grottoes I observed a beautiful arched niche cut in the rock, and adorned on either side with an elegant pilaster. High up in the cliffs are the entrances to numerous excavations, whither their inhabitants must have ascended by ropes or ladders ; and in imprudently endeavouring to mount along the face of the rock, to one of these chambers, I narrowly escaped being dashed to pieces. Proceeding onward to the second lateral valley, south of Benihassan, we discovered several large rock temples, with sekos, adytum, and other chambers, adorned with porticoes, pillars, paintings, *bassi-rilievi*, and hieroglyphics ; and the most extensive of these, on the southern side of the valley, seems, from its symbolical sculptures, to be the “ Cave of Artemis,” having a far more ancient appearance than the northern grottoes, but differing not materially from the other cavern temples of Egypt. Evening approaching, we returned across the desert, and through numerous date forests, to the banks of the river ; and, overtaking our kandjias, continued to sail by moonlight, with a favourable

wind, as far as *Sheikh Abadé*, near which the ruins of Antinoopolis* were formerly found.

Thursday, Dec. 27. *Gherf*.

CLXXXII. Setting sail, at an early hour, from *Sheikh Abadé*, we arrived, about eight o'clock, at *Er Rharamoon*, vulgò *Rhadamone*, where the Pasha has a sugar refinery, formerly under the superintendence of Mr. Brine, an Englishman; upon whose death, Signor Tonina, an Italian, was entrusted with the direction of the works. This gentleman very politely conducted us through the establishment, in which about one hundred Arabs were employed. He complained much of the ignorant prejudices of the Mohammedans, which prevented his using bullock's blood, and other necessary ingredients, in refining the sugar, by which his operations, he said, were almost spoiled, as milk and eggs, the articles substituted in their place, did not exactly answer the purpose. The coarse moist sugar is manufactured in small quantities by the natives in their own houses, and afterwards brought to the Pasha's manufactory, to be refined. Two sorts of white sugar are produced here; one of a coarse grain, but apparently good, which sells at about

* Nothing, we were told, now remains upon the spot, worthy the notice of a traveller.

† Dr. Richardson writes *Al Rairamoun*; but, assuredly, no Arab ever pronounced it so, the final consonant of the article, in this, and many similar cases, being changed by assimilation into the initial consonant of the following noun: as, *En Nebbi* "the Prophet;" *Es Souan*, "the (city of) Syene;" *Haroun Er Rashid*, "Haroun the Just," &c.

a piastre and a half ; and another, much whiter and finer, but still inferior to the best English sugar, which sells at six piastres and a half per pound ; but this latter kind is never manufactured, unless through a kind of adulation, some of the Pasha's grandees give an order for it. There were ten large stills at work, distilling rum, which was of a very good quality, and sold at about two piastres and a half per bottle. Returning to our boats, we proceeded as far as *Gherf*, where we moored.

Friday, Dec. 28. *Manfaloot*.

CLXXXIII. Soon after dawn, we departed from *Gherf*, and there being no wind, proceeded, at first, by tacking, but afterwards, near the old channel of the *Bahr Youssouff*, the breeze began to freshen a little. This channel, which is now quite filled up, was never very wide ; but its banks are exceedingly lofty, and command a fine view of the country round. It has been said that the eastern chain of mountains, all the way from *Er Rharamoon* to *Manfaloot*, comes down close to the water's edge, and is thickly perforated with excavations ; but this is not quite correct ; as a little to the north of the village of Sheikh Said, it recedes considerably from the Nile, and, having made a large semicircular sweep, again approaches it near *Gherf*. Beyond this village it once more turns off towards the east, leaving an extensive flat for cultivation, which extends for several miles towards the south. Up to this point, there are few excavations in the face of the mountains, which slope away to-

ward the desert with an undulating, broken surface, without cliffs or precipices.

CLXXXIV. The weather, though mild, was all this day gloomy, the sun scarcely appearing at all, while low misty clouds rolled continually along the pinnacles of the mountains ; yet the fields resounded with the songs of the sky-larks, and the scent of various flowers perfumed the air. Extensive plantations of sugar-cane, fields of wheat, lupins in flower, pease eighteen inches high, rich clover, &c., cover the whole surface of the country with a variegated carpet of verdure, exceeding in beauty the poetical descriptions of Fénélon. We expect to find crocodiles in the river about *Manfaloot*. The flesh of these animals, which is eaten by the Nubians, has the reputation of being a cure for fevers.

CLXXXV. Hamilton, by I know not what course of reasoning, was led to think, that the sandy nature of most of the islands in the Nile furnishes an argument against the notion that it is the mud of this river which fattens the soil of Egypt. But he would seem to have overlooked the fact that, whenever a new channel is formed round any portion of land previously rich and cultivated, the whole of the space thus severed from the mainland, is very quickly, unless kept in cultivation, reduced to a mere sand-bank. This, however, appears to me easy of explanation ; for the river, in its efforts to move in a right line, attacks incessantly the shores of the island, loosening

and carrying away the lighter soil ; while the heavier sands remain, and are daily increased by the winds from the desert. Afterwards, during the rise of the river, when its current is most irresistible, the whole surface of the island is lifted up from its bed, originally sand, and hurried away by the waters, leaving the lower stratum uncovered. In many parts, even the regular banks of the river, like the shores of the sea, are formed of yellow sand, which, in Nubia, is coarse and heavy, consisting of large particles of decomposed quartz, mica, felspar, &c.

CLXXXVI. At length, as we approach Manfaloot, the eastern mountains assume a more sublime appearance, putting on the form of ruined castles, with terraces, turrets, and battlements of prodigious grandeur, and projecting their bases into the Nile, over which they frown, and tower to a vast height. In the face of the cliffs are innumerable grottoes, of various form and character, some preserving their original rugged features, others fashioned in the shape of temples, with porticoes, pediments, and friezes. When, towards evening, the mist cleared away, the sky assumed that bright cerulean tint which generally distinguishes it in these latitudes ; and the Nile, unruffled by the slightest breeze, presented to the eye a vast mirror, beautifully reflecting the overhanging mountains, gilded and blushing in the light of the setting sun. This noble scene was succeeded by another, still more serene and beautiful ; — the same landscape, painted in new colours by the

moon. It is extraordinary that the ancient Egyptians should have been a quaint unpoetical people, as nature, however calm and regular, has crowded together in the land they inhabited all those physical sources of enthusiasm which are supposed to concur in kindling the fire of genius. The vast naked rocks of the Arabian chain, which, but a few minutes before, had been glowing in the setting sun, now stood like pale spectres in the moonlight, their bald and ghastly brows resembling the scalp of a skeleton ; while the river, broad, tranquil, and of a deep azure tint, glittering with the bright images of the moon's sharp crescent and a thousand resplendent stars, displayed a still softer beauty than by day. In many places the shadows of the mountains threw their huge masses over its unruffled bosom ; and on the opposite side, the low level shore, scarcely elevated above the water, gave rise to a kind of illusion, the mighty river appearing to stretch away indefinitely towards the west, where every group of date palms or mimosas upon the plain, seemed to mark the site of some tufted island rising in the midst of the waters. But no powers of language can ever embody the surpassing splendour of this scene, or, perhaps, succeed in creating the belief that Egypt contains a picturesque landscape ; though, for my own part, I have seldom been more powerfully affected by scenes of acknowledged magnificence, in the mountains of Sicily, in the beautiful valleys of the Apennines, or among the naked Alps of the upper Valais. It will, in fact, be conceded, that the effect of moonlight, falling upon a

wilderness of white crags and pinnacles, with innumerable gorges, ravines, hollows, chasms, and cavern mouths, wrapped in deep shadow, partly concealing them from the eye, and giving rise to mysterious conjectures respecting their forms, is in the highest degree startling, as those who have traversed by night any of the loftier Alpine ridges will certainly have remarked. But in Egypt, the historical, and, still more, the mythological associations, clinging to every scene, more especially where the mute figures of gods look down upon you from wall and cavern-mouth and ruin, augment, in a wonderful manner, the effect of the natural scenery, and give rise in the mind to emotions which it would be difficult to describe. To enjoy this magnificent prospect, I sat under an awning on the deck, till the cold of the advancing night compelled me to retreat into my cabin. It was late when we arrived at *Manfaloot*, where our Arabs very quickly landed, to enjoy the sort of amusement furnished by an Egyptian coffee-house.

Saturday, Dec. 29. *Abootij*.

CLXXXVII. The town of *Manfaloot*, which we quitted about ten o'clock, is said to be less populous than *Minieh*, but appeared to be much larger and better built; and its bazār was decidedly superior in appearance to any I had seen since leaving Cairo; the streets being clean and straight, and the shops neat and well constructed. Little novelty or splendour can, of course, be expected in the articles exposed for sale at a place so remote and unfrequented; but even bread,

meat, butter, and the other necessities of life, were not plentiful. I saw no dancing girls; but in all these towns there are professed story-tellers, who earn an easy and comfortable subsistence by repairing from coffee-house to coffee-house, recounting their wonderful tales, partly taken from the Arabian Nights, partly original. Suleiman, who, during his multifarious wanderings, had learned an infinite number of these histories, and naturally an excellent narrator, was, himself, as good as a whole library of novels; and it was his custom, when the wind enabled us to sail by night, to present himself at the cabin door, as soon as coffee and the chibouque had been served, and ask my permission to relate me a story. This being obtained, he would seat himself cross-legged upon the deck, and projecting his dusky face, beaming with satisfaction and merriment, half way into the cabin, would relate story after story, so ingenious, so new, so wild and mirth-inspiring, that, while thus engaged, day has sometimes overtaken us unawares. The Arabs, meanwhile, would generally be employed in the same manner, at a little distance on the deck; and at such times they always shared the coffee and tobacco which were brought in between every fresh narration. Much of the pleasure derived from stories of this kind appears to arise from the firm faith which the narrator himself puts in them. Being ignorant of the bounds which divide the possible from the impossible, the most daring miracles, wrought by enchanters and magicians, offend him not. Sudden turns of fortune, examples of men springing at a few

hazardous bounds from poverty to empire, princes reduced to slavery, cities, once opulent, inhabited by jackals and owls, and many other circumstances of a like nature, are spectacles with which the Orientals are familiar. Their favourite theme is ambition, which,—and not love,—is their ruling passion, young and old; and accordingly, they delight in picking up their heroes from the hovel, and conducting them, by paths paved with crime and slippery with blood, to a throne, where supreme happiness, they imagine, is to be tasted, in spite of remorse, whose stings are invisible to all but those who feel them.

CLXXXVIII. The Arabian mountains continue to follow their southerly direction; but as, in this part of its course, the Nile makes many extraordinary windings, we perpetually approach and recede from them. Near *Siout* the Libyan range begins to increase in height and projects considerably to the eastward of its usual direction, narrowing the valley of the Nile, and adding a new feature to the scenery. The numerous islands, too, which divide the channel of the river into many smaller streams, improve the effect of the whole; for, on issuing forth from these narrow branches, you appear to be sailing into a broad lake, bordered in several places by deep green woods of acacia trees, which, like youthful forests, cover for miles the whole face of the country, where the date-trees are few and but thinly scattered. At *Ouastah* two of my Arabs, natives of that village, landed to pay a visit to their relations, who all came

out — father, mother, sister, and brother — to meet and welcome them home. After a short stay, they returned to the kandjia, accompanied by their whole family. There was a remarkable likeness to each other in them all. The brother who remained with his parents, while the others sought their fortunes in Cairo, brought me a present of dried dates ; the old man took me by the hand, and, recommending his sons to my care, conjured me to be kind to them when we should be out of Egypt ; while the mother and sister were silent, and stood apart, endeavouring to hide their tears behind their hoods. Indeed, the young men were worthy of their affection ; being patient, industrious, well-behaved, — more especially the younger, — and, obliging and disinterested beyond any Arab I ever met with. They were both strict observers of the duties of their religion, and seemed to be wholly free from those dissolute habits which too generally prevail among persons of their class. The wind being fair when we arrived at *Siout*, we continued our voyage, and moored about midnight at *Abootij*.

CHAPTER XII.

SUNDAY—ENCROACHMENT OF THE DESERT—ARAB GIRLS—TREATMENT OF WOMEN IN EGYPT—CHARCOAL OF THE ACACIA TREE—CHARACTER OF THE FELLAHS—GAU-EL-KEBIR—MOUNTAIN SCENERY—WINDS UPON THE NILE—SOOHAJ—CHEMMIS—RUINS OF THE CITY OF FAN—COPTIC CONVENT^s—LORD ABERDEEN AND THE PASHA—CHEAPNESS OF PROVISIONS AT EKHMIM—THE DOUM TREE—MINSHIEH—PHYSIOGNOMY OF THE TURK AND BEDOUIN—LARGE-TAILED SHEEP—SLAUGHTERING CATTLE—CROCODILES—EXTRAORDINARY BEAUTY AND FERTILITY OF THE THEBAID—DEWS OF EGYPT—ABYDOS—PAINTED SCULPTURE—CHAPEL—ORIENTAL SUNRISE—PALACE OF MEMNON—ATTEMPT TO KIDNAP THE CAPTAIN OF MY BOAT—INTERVIEW WITH THE GOVERNOR OF BELLIANEH—SUMMARY MODE OF INFLECTING PUNISHMENT.

Sunday, Dec. 30. *Tahta.*

CLXXXIX. THERE being no wind, I was this morning enabled to resume the practice of walking. In England I always thought it pleasant to stroll through the country on Sunday, when the general cessation from labour appears to diffuse over the faces of the peasantry an air of cheerfulness and thankfulness, closely allied to the more enlivening influences of religion. The Mohammedan of Egypt, who does not keep his own Sabbath, cannot, of course, be expected to observe ours; nevertheless, old habitual associations caused me to imagine that the poor *fellahs* seemed, like our own husbandmen, more contented and

happy on that day ; and their habits, in these remote provinces, are so simple and primitive, that, in the Scripture account of the departure of Jacob from the house of Laban, his meeting with Esau, and subsequent adventures in Palestine, which I was this morning engaged in reading, it seemed easy to discover distinct traces of the manners which still prevail among these people.

CXC. The Arabian and Libyan mountains, of which the former is still by far the loftier, after having diverged widely, and formed a broad semicircular valley, again approach each other about the latitude of *Tahta*. Large tracts of excellent land on the eastern bank have, in this province, been recently thrown out of cultivation, notwithstanding the numerous small canals which intersect the fields, and carry the waters of the inundation to the very foot of the hills ; and these districts, unless quickly reclaimed, will soon form a part of the desert. During my walk I met several pretty Arab girls, with baskets of acacia charcoal on their heads, proceeding down the bank of the river, to dispose of their merchandise at the different villages. Men, too, were driving along camels or asses, laden with the same article ; but these barbarians seldom carry any burdens themselves. Women, nowhere treated with the tenderness and consideration due to their sex, are in Egypt reduced to mere beasts of burden. Every where you see them moving under heavy loads : the cumbrous water-jar, the rubbish basket, the charcoal sack ; but, it

should be observed, that, notwithstanding this, the Arabs appear in general to live very affectionately with their wives and other female relations, whom, in other respects, therefore, they cannot ill-treat. Hard work, however, among these poor women, has much more to do than climate in bringing on premature old age ; and I am persuaded, from several examples, that, among the wealthier classes, women preserve their beauty much longer than is generally imagined. I could never learn, either from physicians of extensive practice among the natives, or from the Arabs themselves, that maidens are nubile much earlier in this country than in Europe, though girls of eleven years old are sometimes married ; but this is evidently an abuse, since they seldom bear children before the age of fifteen.

CXCI. In all this part of Egypt, but particularly about *Katieh*, much charcoal is manufactured from the wood of the acacia, which is here found in great abundance. Small quantities of gum arabic are likewise produced by this tree, but insufficient for commerce ; that which is commonly used in Egypt is brought from the black countries or from the desert. The Bedouins, likewise, manufacture, from the acacia, immense quantities of charcoal which they bring on camels into Egypt. There must, therefore, exist somewhere in the wilderness much more extensive woods than is generally supposed ; since they have carried on this traffic from time immemorial, and always appear capable of proportioning

the supply to the demand. The young corn, in many places is not above six inches high. In the midst of the cultivated fields, I passed a sheik's tomb of spacious dimensions, with an elegant white cupola.

CXCII. The *fellahs* appear to have but feeble notions of cleanliness, their clothes in general swarming with lice, which they catch, and cast alive upon the ground, to be transferred to the person who next happens to sit near the spot; but they are certainly ashamed of the fact, for they hunt the vermin by stealth, and not in the barefaced way observable among the common people in Italy. They seem, however, to be naturally industrious and active, though it depends upon the government to direct their energies into a proper channel. Even the ancient Egyptians, with all their boasted wisdom, in most of their great works, appear to have had utility very little in view. Vanity or superstition being generally the moving principle, the result was splendid palaces, tombs, or temples, by none of which were the people greatly benefited. Canals, bridges, and great public highways, for the making of which no country can possess greater facilities, seem to have been always subordinate, in their estimation, to palaces and royal tombs; the monarch, in all such governments, being every thing, and the people nothing, excepting so far as they can be made to minister to their master's pleasures. And such, in a great measure, must be the sentiments of those travellers and idle speculators at home, who re-

garding nothing beyond the antiquities of the country, imagine that the dust and bones of the old mummy-makers are of more importance than the living multitude who now till the soil, and who, in their dhourra-covered sheds and unsightly nakedness, are superior, in every thing that concerns the dignity of human nature, to the superstitious and degraded rabble of the Pharaohs and Ptolemies. The old Egyptians laboured slavishly for their kings — the *fellahs* labour for their Pasha; and, if history fable not, Mohammed Ali, with all his faults, is a much greater and better sovereign than many of those who, in antiquity, ground the face of the poor in Egypt.

CXCIII. We to-day shot a large horned owl and a heron, both very beautiful birds, the head of the former bearing an unusual resemblance to that of a cat. The Nile, a little to the north of *Tahta*, embraces many islands, and is wide as a lake. We passed, without landing, the village of *Gau-el-Kebir**, — the ancient An-

* While endeavouring to correct a supposed error in Mr. Legh, the intelligent author of the "Modern Traveller," in speaking of this village, has himself fallen into an error. Mr. Legh had rightly said that the portico, &c. were found at *Gau-el-Kebir*; which Mr. Conder thinks must be a mistake for *Gau-el-Garbieh*. Now no ruins, I believe, were ever found at the western *Gau*; but the affair may be easily cleared up by a short explanation. There are two villages of this name, which are sometimes called *Gau-el-Shergieh*, and *Gau-el-Garbieh*, the Eastern and Western; sometimes *Gau-el-Kebir*, and *Gau-el-Sogheir*, the Greater and Lesser *Gau*. The *greater* is on the E. bank, and here the ruins of Antæopolis were found; the *lesser* is a mile from the river, and about two miles south of the former, as correctly marked in Colonel Leake's map — a work of inestimable value to the traveller.

tæopolis, — on the eastern bank of the river, where no remains of antiquity are now to be seen, except the substructions of a few dwelling-houses in burnt brick, and part of a stone wall at the water's edge : the Nile having washed away the rest. The situation of Antæopolis, on the skirts of a fertile semicircular plain, with high mountains behind, and the Nile in front, was highly advantageous : but the too great proximity of the river has been fatal to the ruins and the modern village, the whole of the former, and the greater part of the latter, having been undermined by a recent inundation. A little to the south of *Gau* is the village of *Räeineh*, picturesquely situated, in the midst of the most lovely corn-fields and acacia groves, at the foot of *Gebel Sheïkh Haridi*, where you observe two narrow ravines, with the appearance of deep watercourses, torn up and shattered by violent rain-floods. But the unbroken front which this interminable rocky ridge commonly presents to the spectator is exceedingly remarkable, appearing always of the same height, like a huge buttress supporting the pressure of the boundless table-land of the desert. However, on ascending to the summit, you discover, instead of a plain, the barren crests of other ridges, extending farther than the eye can reach, as in the vast chains of the Jura and Alps. Near the village of *Räeineh* we passed a large boat, laden with slaves from Darfour and the other black countries of the interior, drifting down the river, rudder foremost ; and we saw the negroes, male and female, standing bareheaded in the sun, resembling so many cattle

proceeding to a slaughter-house, which, in fact, northern countries, prove to them, not excepting even Egypt, as they die there of cold by thousands.

Monday, Dec. 31. *Ekhmun.*

CXCIV. The eastern mountains begin to present a change of feature. Instead of running nearly in a straight line, north and south, they, above Ræinah, fluctuate remarkably in their direction, now retreating inwards in the form of a half-moon, and now advancing again over the plain in sharp promontories, presenting to the eye a series of precipices of vast height, and perfectly perpendicular. Sometimes several of these promontories are beheld at once, obliquely approaching the river, like the terminations of a series of parallel ridges; but, continuing to sail on, you successively discover the craggy curtains which unite these projections to each other. In many parts a succession of small wavy mounds of sand, like the section of a globe, rest against the foot of the mountains, and slope down gently towards the plain. It is true that, for many hundred miles, there is never seen, upon this dreary range, a leaf, a single blade of grass, or any green thing; but a thousand circumstances concur in removing the stamp of monotony. Sometimes you behold them lifting up their dark crests against the pale jasper sky of the morning, just as the earth receives the first tints of the dawn; then the sun, bursting up from behind them, covers their pinnacles with glory;

anon they glow painfully bright beneath the fiery sky of noon ; or are transformed into columns of turquoise and amethyst by the magic illusions of sunset. Such are the objects which, for many hundred miles, constitute the principal sources of interest to the traveller ; for neither are there any ruins in this part of the valley, nor, after the edge of curiosity has been blunted, do the caverns and grottoes excite any very powerful emotions. Nature, however, in these splendid climates, is always beautiful. And when the monuments of Egyptian art shall all have crumbled to dust, and the site of Thebes be more problematical than that of Babylon or Memphis, Egypt will still be a wonder in itself, with its soil of inexhaustible fertility, its deserts, and mighty river, which rises and falls with a regularity almost equal to that of the sun and moon.

CXCV. Even the winds which blow over the Nile constitute a very remarkable natural phenomenon. At all seasons of the year we almost invariably find them following or opposing the course of the current, — a circumstance referrible to those two extraordinary ridges of mountains which, running parallel with the river, hem in the narrow valley on both sides. Excepting when the stream diverges from the right line, towards the east or west, the voyager on the Nile is seldom affected by side winds ; though, in some few parts of the valley, not yet sufficiently noted by travellers, sudden and violent gusts,

descending from the Arabian or Libyan mountains, endanger his safety by overturning or submerging his boat. The ordinary winds begin to blow faintly soon after dawn, and, increasing with the increasing heat of the sun, are most powerful about three o'clock in the afternoon; after which they gradually die away, and cease entirely at sunset. Thus they proceed, day after day, with little variation, though instances occur of the south wind's continuing throughout night, blowing with unmitigated violence, or rising and sinking several times during that period. Occasionally, in passing a village, the traveller finds himself all at once becalmed, while the boats, a little before or behind, are sailing beautifully before the wind; which is caused by the numerous houses, and the extensive surrounding groves that intercept and turn aside the atmospheric current. In consequence of these phænomena we generally begin the day with tracking, the morning breeze not being sufficiently powerful to enable us to stem the current; from nine or ten o'clock until night we trust to our sails, though, when the wind is faint, towing again becomes necessary about five or six o'clock.

CXCVI. In the course of this afternoon we saw the first crocodile, basking in the sun on a low sandy island near the eastern bank; and, shortly afterwards, passed *Soohaj*, the ancient Crocodilopolis; a town of some consideration, with three mosques, whose minarets looked well amid the foliage of the date trees. The Nile, increasing in breadth and

grandeur as we ascend, appeared singularly beautiful to-night, on approaching Panopolis by moonlight. This city, now *Ekhmîm*, stands at some distance from the river; but, as it contains some remains of antiquity, which, from the importance of the place, and the remote date of its foundation, promised to repay our curiosity, we would not postpone our visit until our return, but moored close to the footpath leading to the town, in order to be there early on the morrow.

Tuesday, Jan. 1. 1833. *Minshieh*.

CXCVII. Rising before the dawn, we were soon prepared to leave our boats, in order to visit the "City of Pan," where games were anciently celebrated in honour of Perseus; who, conjointly with Danaë, had here a chapel erected to his honour. About the nature and attributes of the god anciently worshipped in this city under the name of *Chemmis*, mythological writers are not agreed: according to some, it was a personification of the "immaterial fire*," the first principle of all things; others, differing, perhaps, merely in appearance, regard *Chemmis*† as a form of Ammon, presiding over the perpetuation of animals. Divested of the deceptive splendour of erudition, he appears, however, like the deity of Lampsacus, to have been nothing more

* Creuzer, *Religions de l'Antiquité*, t. i. p. 410.

† This name, which, perhaps, was only one of the appellations of *Mendes*, may have been derived from the Egyptian verb *Chem*, "to be hot, fervent, lustful."

than a deification of the principle of lust, which, there is but too much reason for believing, was every where the favourite divinity of the ancient Egyptians. His symbol, we know, was a goat ; a fact which speaks more plainly than hieroglyphics.*

CXCVIII. In the city which formerly contained the image of this “ obscene dread ” of Egypt’s sons, there are, properly speaking, no ruins ; for, after carefully investigating every part of the neighbourhood, where the appearance of the ground seemed to indicate the existence of such objects, and questioning a number of the inhabitants on the subject, all we could discover were many prodigious blocks of stone, lying to the east of the city near the cemetery ; a few scattered fragments of marble and granite columns in different parts of the town ; and one huge fragment, twenty-four feet in length, of the architrave of a temple, on which we observed a mutilated Greek inscription. On the above blocks, of Cyclopean di-

* Pan, Chemmis, Mendes, the *Esmun* of the Phœnicians. Jablonski, who was by no means disposed to degrade the mythology and religion of Egypt, — if religion it can be called, — identifies Chemmis with Pan, observing that the very name signifies “ the fecundating principle.” He also describes the portentous enormities which, according to Pindar and Herodotus, were sometimes perpetrated by Egyptian women in his honour. — *Panth. Ægypt.* i. 277. 281. 283. His worship and symbols resemble, in many respects, those of *Siva* among the Hindoos. — *Id.* i. 285. 287. The famous *crux ansata*, vulgarly denominated “ The Key of the Nile,” is merely a rude representation of the Kteis-Phallus, the united symbols of Isis and Osiris, known in India under the name of the Yoni-Lingam, and supposed to signify the vivifying power of the sun, or, more properly, the creative energy, which contained within itself the active and passive powers of production. — *Id.* i. 287—295.

mensions, are still seen fragments of the winged globe, and several mythological figures, in *intaglio relevato*, but nothing which could certainly determine to what deity the vast structure had been originally dedicated. Of the temple buried, all but the roof, mentioned by Denon, we could find no trace; though it may still lie overwhelmed beneath those enormous mounds of rubbish which are found among the palm groves east of the town. The same disappointment attended our inquiries respecting the mountain lake, surrounded by acacia trees, described to Belzoni by the monks of the Latin convent. No person in the city, as far as we could discover, had ever heard of it; but that I might omit no means of obtaining information respecting this lake (respecting which, to confess the truth, I was much more curious than about the temple), I visited the Latin convent, in order to question the monks upon the subject. But this step, also, was useless; the only monk remaining of the fraternity which had once existed at *Ekhmīm* being absent at *Girgeh*; and his Coptic servant, who seemed to occupy the whole edifice, was unable to give me any information. The convent is tolerably well built of sun-dried bricks; and contains a chapel, decorated, or rather deformed, by a number of wretched tawdry prints. A few Arabic and Coptic MSS. thrown carelessly in a heap at the foot of the reading-desk, together with a copy of the funeral service in Latin, constituted the whole of the conventual library. There appeared to be several women in the house. It was a woman who answered us when we

knocked at the door; and, in passing along the cloisters, we saw another, with her face more carefully concealed than a Mohammedan woman would have thought necessary, crouching in a corner, as if to conceal herself. The Copt said she had come to pray; but, I suspect, she formed part of the establishment. Inquiring of this man how many Christians there might be in the town, I was told, "About fifty." Mr. Jowett, a few years ago, was assured there were two or three hundred, with six priests. In the Coptic convent, there was not, at this time, a single monk; and the building itself was falling to ruin.

CXCIX. In the principal mosque, which we could view but hastily, I observed about forty low slender columns, apparently of granite, with capitals of various kinds; unquestionably taken from some ancient edifice, perhaps the chapel of Perseus and Danaë. Dr. Richardson roughly estimates the population of Ekhmim at ten thousand: from the same data, that is, from the size and appearance of the town, the bazār, &c., I should consider *three thousand* an exaggeration. Bruce thought that the people looked sickly. But the air, since his time, must have improved; as they now appear not only better clothed and better fed, but more robust and hale than the generality of Arabs; and the young women, in particular, are smart, good-looking, and healthy. Indeed, I observed in this town and the villages of the neighbourhood a number of

people not in rags ; which was something novel, as it may, in general, be said for the Pasha, that he has indisputably the most ragged subjects in the world. Of this fact, however, he does not seem to be conscious ; for it is related that, during the Greek war, when his Highness was informed, through Lord Aberdeen, that he would not be permitted to carry into execution the design, which he was supposed to entertain, of transporting the Christian inhabitants of Candia into Egypt, and supplying their place with Arabs, his reply was : — “ Is Lord Aberdeen *such a fool* (I use his Highness’s own words) as to suppose I would exchange my *good Arabs* for his *lousy Greeks* ? ” How the latter are furnished, in this respect, I know not ; but they must certainly be most richly supplied if they outstrip the Pasha’s Arabs. But, about Ekhmim, they are, as I have already observed, better clothed, and apparently cleaner, than usual. The country, too, in the neighbourhood, is finely cultivated, and produces wheat, lentils, sugarcane, onions, &c. Yet the bazār was but poorly supplied ; there being no butter, and little bread. But it was not market-day. Provisions, however, are here extraordinarily cheap : four live pigeons for a piastre ; fifty-eight eggs for the same price, that is, twenty for a penny* ; forty-one fine onions for little more than a farthing ; nearly a quart of fine fresh milk for the same price ; meat, bread, and other necessities of life, in proportion. This is the place for economists ; where no

* The piastre being little more than two-pence halfpenny in value.

fuel, except for the kitchen, is ever wanted, and where the finest beverage in the world may be had for nothing.

CC. In walking from *Ekhmîm* to *Essawieh*, we found the peasants watering the young wheat in the plain, exactly in the manner described in Deuteronomy. Inquiring of one of the men whom we saw at work, how long the wheat, now about six inches high, had been sown, he replied, fifty-four days; and in how many more days it would be reaped, he answered, other fifty-four days: that is, one hundred and eight days between sowing-time and harvest. The fields had already been twice irrigated, and the operation would again require to be twice repeated. The wheat, therefore, is sown early in November, immediately after the retiring of the river, and reaped about the middle of February. The lentil requires about the same period. The sugarcane is propagated by slips. In this plain, a little to the south of *Ekhmîm*, we saw the first *doum* tree, or *Palma Thebaica*. When left to nature, its trunk is covered with a series of flat branches; which, winding round it obliquely, and lapping alternately over each other, appear like the squares of a tessellated pavement. These branches, however, being cut off, as they generally are, the *doum* has a smooth annulated trunk, which divides itself into several boughs, terminating in a large circular head of waving leaves. It is smaller and much less beautiful than the date palm. The leaves are disposed upon the point of a

prickly stem, in the shape of a fan, like those of the *jugara*, so plentiful on the uncultivated hills in the neighbourhood of Agrigentum.*

CCI. There being no wind, we proceeded all day by tracking, and, consequently, advanced but a few miles. A little to the north of *Minshieh* (the ancient Ptolemais Hermii), we landed in search of the remains of a quay, said to exist there ; but could discover nothing, save a small ruined brick arch, part, perhaps, of the substruction of some ancient edifice. In approaching the town, from the north, you traverse “a smooth, close-shaven green,” not common in Egypt, and pass through a walled garden thickly planted with orange and other evergreen trees. Lofty square pigeon-houses, resembling the towers in prints of ancient fortifications, common both here and at *Ekhmīm*, give the place, when viewed from afar, an air of grandeur which vanishes as we approach it. The only mosque in the town possesses a fine lofty minaret. The bazār was crowded with Turks and Bedouins. The former so strongly resembling Europeans in features and complexion, that I frequently mistake them for such : in fact, they are fairer and

* The *jugara*, when I saw it, was growing in the midst of aloes of gigantic size, which recalled to my mind Mrs. Howit's beautiful allusion to the vegetation of the Spice Islands, in her “Little Mariner :”—

“He knew the Spice Isles every one,
Where the clove and nutmeg grow,
And the aloe towers a stately tree,
With its clustering bells of snow !”

far handsomer than the Italians ; evidently betraying the mixture of Greek blood, which, in many cases, has nearly obliterated the marks of their barbaric origin. But about the Bedouins there is no mistake possible : their high broad foreheads, bushy eyebrows, thin lips, — with no cross of the Negro in them, — and small dark fiery eye, bespeak at once the free inhabitant of the desert, before whom the tax-eaten *fellah* and the effeminate *Caireen* tremble and are abashed. These regarded us with peculiar earnestness as we brushed by them in the bazār ; revolving, probably, in their minds, how much they should have liked to try conclusions with us in the desert — perhaps their gaze was that of mere curiosity. The Turk, when encountered on the road, endeavours to enter into conversation, and is annoyed at his own failure ; the Bedouin bids you good morning or evening ; or says, “ Peace be with you ! ” and passes on. Inquiring, at the Coptic convent, how many Christians there might be in the town, I was told between fifty and sixty. A repetition of the same answer again, will cause me to suspect that “ between fifty and sixty,” like the *sexcenties* of the Romans, is merely used to signify an indefinite number, about which the speaker knows nothing precisely. Both *Elkhmim* and *Minshieh* are fortified towns ; but the walls will scarcely keep out the jackals.

Wednesday, Jan. 2. *Bellianeh*.

CCII. Departing with the dawn, we beheld, soon after sunrise, one of those magical scenes which the tropics and their vicinity, I imagine, can alone fur-

nish. The mountains, cleft into numerous chains, and ascending in pinnacles of various heights, were enveloped by the haze of the morning; thick, heavy, and white in the valleys; more silvery about the summits, which, thus veiled, appeared almost transparent; while tints of indescribable brilliancy were diffused over the sky, and reflected from the river. A little to the north of *Es-Serat*, we landed, and walked on towards the village, where the eastern plain is wide, and highly cultivated. The Nile, flowing serenely, with many creeks, sharp inlets, and small woody islands in its channel, has the appearance of a beautiful lake, diffusing its placid shining waters among groves of date and doum palms, mimosas, acacias, and tamarisks, fringing its banks, and concealing its extent from the eye.

CCIII. It was market-day at *Es-Serat*. The farmers had brought thither their grain, the bakers their bread, the fishermen their fish, and the butchers their *cattle*, ready to be killed as wanted. The sheep, which were feeding on fine rich clover, brought to the market for the purpose, had the large heavy tails mentioned by Herodotus*; which, however, resembled not the tails of the Cape sheep in

* It must, however, be acknowledged that in length they fall far short of the historian's description:—" δύο δὲ γένηα ὄτων σφί ἐστι, θαύματος ἄξια, τὰ οὐδαμόθι ἑτερωθι ἐστι τὸ μὲν αὐτέων ἕτερον ἔχει τὰς οὐράς μακράς, τριῶν πηχέων οὐκ ἑλάσσονας, τὰς εἰ τις ἐπείη σφί ἐπέλκειν, ἔλκεα ἂν ἔχοιεν, ἀνατριβομενίων πρὸς τῇ γῇ τῶν οὐρέων· νῦν δ' ἅπας τις τῶν ποιμένων ἐπίσταται ξυλουργεῖν ἐς τοσουτὸ, ἀμαξίδας γὰρ ποιῶντες, ὑποδίουσι αὐτὰς τῇσι οὐρῇσι, ἐνὸς ἐκάστου κτήνεος τὴν οὐρὴν ἐπὶ ἀμαξίδα ἐκάστην καταδέοντες." — *Herodotus*, lib. iii. c. 113.

prints of natural history, small at the root and increasing towards the point ; but the contrary, being about eight inches in breadth at the root, and diminishing gradually to the end. These sheep were nearly all of a brown colour. Several of the cattle seemed to be of the Indian breed, small, and with a hunch upon the back, like the Brahmini bulls. The market was held on the outside of the village, among the date trees, at the foot of which the butchers slaughtered their cattle, permitting the blood to flow about for the dogs, many of which are seen lapping it up warm, close to the throat of the animal before it was dead. The head of the beast about to be killed was turned towards Mekka, and its throat cut with prayers, and in the name of God :—“ Bism’ illah, ya allah akbar !” One of the butchers we observed belabouring the body of a headless ox with a long stick to make the skin come off the more easily. On the whole, I never beheld a more disgusting sight ; for the people assembled, of both sexes and of all ages, seemed to have monopolised ugliness, squalidness, and filth ; and several of the men had a most truculent atrocious aspect, like that of certain galley-slaves whom I once saw at the Mount St. Michael. Among the crowd were a few little negro slaves, looking plump and contented ; and a great number of one-eyed people, young and old,—proofs of the existence and ravages of ophthalmia. I am surprised that the buffalo, which yields so large a quantity of excellent milk, should not hitherto have been introduced into England. In Egypt it forms the riches of the peasant.

CCIV. On returning to the kandjias, we saw a large crocodile on the eastern bank, standing on the sands, in the midst of a number of white ibises. Though quite out of the reach of a fowling piece, he was terrified at our appearance, and immediately plunged into the river. The wheat in this neighbourhood was at least eighteen inches high. The *doum* tree is still rare; as is also the Egyptian sycamore, or Pharaoh's Fig-tree, so plentiful in the Delta; but I observed a noble specimen to-day, near the Nile. Late in the afternoon we passed *Girgeh*, formerly the capital of Upper Egypt. This city stands close to the river, and is adorned with numerous mosques, whose elegant minarets and spacious domes, appearing at intervals between the luxuriant date trees, which confer upon the place the aspect of a grove, have an aspect of grandeur which I had nowhere remarked south of Cairo. *Girgeh* seems to be a very considerable town, having the appearance of carrying on a great inland trade; and numerous boats were now building on the shore. The view towards the eastern mountains is extensive and varied, though less so than from near *Minshieh*; but the plain country around is rich and fertile, and the river of an unusual breadth. It was, when we passed, the hour when an oriental landscape is beheld to most advantage; when the rays of the sun, nearly approaching its setting, seem to embrace the objects round which they stream like a flood, creating interminable shadows, with all those amazing contrasts resulting from the richest intermingling of light and shade. The wind

being fair, we reserved *Girgeh* until our return ; and pushed on to *Bellianeh*. The crocodiles are here very numerous, and great numbers of them were to-day observed basking on the eastern bank ; yet one of our men jumped into the river after his red cap, and swam a considerable distance ; a proof that very little fear is entertained of them. Sir Frederic Henniker imagined that the seed of the male palm perfumed the air even in December ; but he would seem to have been deceived by the scent of the bean-flower, for the palm tree is still perfectly inodorous, and emits but a faint fragrance, even in spring, when the operation of conveying the pollen from the male to the female tree is performed.

Thursday, Jan. 3. Near *Khiam*.

CCV. Quitting *Bellianeh* at an early hour, we proceeded across the country towards *This*, or *Abydos*, the *Arabat Metfooneh*, or “ Arabat beneath the sands,” of the Arabs. Strabo’s description of the palace of King Memnon, which he visited eighteen centuries ago, excited our curiosity. Riding on hastily, therefore, anxious to behold the magnificent ruin, we directed our course towards the Libyan mountains, which are here of great height and most rugged aspect, presenting a series of lofty cliffs, in many places entirely perpendicular ; our path lying over one of the richest and most highly cultivated plains in Egypt, now covered with luxuriant crops of clover, lentils, lupines, onions, sugar-cane, wheat, and about two thousand acres of beans in blossom ; and

these, which for a long way bordered our path on either side, were intermingled with a heavy under crop of tall clover, undoubtedly the finest and most abundant I have ever seen. On all sides, as far as the eye could reach, arose the date groves in which the villages stood embosomed; and the farmers were every where busy in the fields. Perched here and there, on the ground or in the trees, were doves, hawks white and brown,—which, from their familiarity with the other birds, would appear not to be carnivorous, — large black eagles, resting aloft on the tops of the highest palms; small flights of ibises, and innumerable sparrows and pigeons. The camel, the buffalo, the horse, the cow, the sheep, and the goat, were feeding in groups among the rich pasturage, which having been drenched by the dews of the preceding night, heavy as those of *Hermon*, every leaf and blade now glittered with sparkling dew-drops. Scenes of beauty and fertility like this involuntarily recall to mind those exquisite images, which Milton with so much taste and judgment has introduced into Eve's rapturous description of external nature : —

“ Sweet is the breath of morn, her rising sweet,
With charm of earliest birds: pleasant the sun
When first on this delightful land he spreads
His orient beams, on herb, tree, fruit, and flower
Glistening with dew.”

Scarcely could paradise itself be more delightful than the land now before us; the whole atmosphere being perfumed faintly, but deliciously, by the scent of

many flowers, while every object which presented itself to the eye was clothed with inimitable freshness and beauty. The weather was such as we sometimes enjoy in England during the month of June; when the sun's heat is tempered by light clouds, which alternately admit and intercept his beams. To enjoy it, we slackened our pace: Abydos, and its Memnonium, were, for the moment, forgotten; and the beauties of the landscape were greatly enhanced by the buoyancy of my spirits and the indescribable delights of health. I could now comprehend why the Romans sent their consumptive patients, and the Turks their men grown prematurely old by excess, to the banks of the Nile; for nowhere on earth could they, in winter, find a more congenial climate than that of the Thebaid.

CCVI. All this plain is abundantly inundated by the Nile, so that a few months ago boats might have sailed where we now admired the richness of the crops; but there is also a canal by which, when the river has subsided, water is conveyed to the foot of the desert; and we observed them raising it for the purposes of irrigation from small tanks filled during the inundation. But one great cause of the fertility of Egypt, is the extraordinary dew, which, as in all countries where the atmosphere is generally free from clouds, falls during the night, leaving the earth drenched as after heavy showers; and to this circumstance the ancient Egyptians seem to have alluded in an epithet of Buto, or the clear starry

night, whom they termed the “Mother of Dew.”* In about three hours we arrived at *Abydos*; and, passing through the modern village, — that has nothing remarkable except the noble palm wood in which it stands, — emerged into the desert, where numerous mounds of rubbish, burned brick, broken pottery, &c. marked the site of the ancient city. Our guides first conducted us to a set of small painted chambers, evidently forming part of a spacious temple, probably of Osiris, whom, according to Strabo, the people of *Abydos* held in extreme veneration.

CCVII. The ruins are much too imperfect to admit, without extensive excavations, of our forming an accurate idea of the original form and dimensions of the temple, which, like many other religious edifices in Egypt, appears to have been broken up, internally, into numerous insignificant apartments and separate chapels, nowise answering to the magnificence of the exterior. The figures represented on the walls differ little in design and execution from those which adorn other Egyptian monuments; but made, perhaps, a deeper impression on our imaginations, from being the first perfect specimens we saw. They are executed in *intaglio relevato*, and were once painted in the most brilliant colours; the effect of which, however barbarous it may appear to systematic

* Jablonski identifies Buto, or Latona, with the moon, and resolves her name into *Mau-ioti*; but, in his system, all the gods of Egypt are only so many forms of those two primitive objects of worship, — the sun and moon. — *Panth. Ægypt.* i. 84. 116.

antiquarians, is singularly gorgeous and picturesque ; at least, when tastefully and ably executed, which it sometimes was in Egypt. The colours employed were red, yellow, green, and blue ; and these, considering the years which have elapsed since they were laid on, are still remarkably fresh and vivid ; though, in pretending that they seem to have been finished but yesterday, travellers are guilty of ridiculous exaggeration. In one of the apartments, for example, there is a figure painted in a colour that to my companion appeared *blue*, to me *green* ; which may serve to give some idea of their preservation. The blue and the green, however, are most faded ; the red and yellow being, in general, well preserved.

CCVIII. In the northern division of the pile there is a small chapel, containing an extremely remarkable series of figures. Upon the beautiful cornice over the door, both on the exterior and interior, is the winged globe, symbolical of the world self-balanced in the regions of space ; and the sides of the doorway, together with the friezes and architrave, are covered with brilliantly painted hieroglyphics : but the roof has been removed, and the eastern wall much broken and injured at the top, though one only of the figures has suffered material detriment. What the event here celebrated in sculpture may have been, it seems difficult to determine ; but, after an attentive examination, it appeared to be an historical subject representing the deification, or apotheosis, of some distinguished mortal, perhaps of that Memnon,

Ismendes, or Osymandyas, whose palace still stands in the neighbourhood. The procession consists of several figures, male and female, gods and mortals, who move in the train of the principal personage towards the throne of Osiris, placed at the extremity of the chamber. On entering, the first figures which present themselves to the eye, upon the right hand wall, are those of two females, bearing in one hand a kind of graduated staff, in the other the Kteis-Phallus, which they extend towards the god. In front of these is a male figure, with the serpent, the emblem of sovereignty, on his brow, leading forward the foremost of the two females; while the hawk-headed god, Aroëris, holds him by the hand, and at the same time presents him with the mystic symbol of Eternal Life. The complexion of Memnon and Aroëris is red; that of the goddesses, yellow: both utterly unnatural. The incipient divinity having been furnished with the sign of immortality, another god, of blue complexion, with a long narrow beard (the present Egyptians have very scanty beards) presents him with the flagellum, crosier, and bird-headed staff. This group is preceded by a goddess, bearing in her hand what appears to be a kind of musical instrument. The first compartment here terminates, and a narrow band of hieroglyphics, descending from the ceiling to the floor, divides it from the next; in which there are but three figures; — Isis and Osiris on their thrones, and Memnon, or whoever this personage may be, presenting himself

before them with a kind of censer in his hand. Osiris, through the sculptor's ignorance of perspective, seems to sit considerably in advance of the superior divinity, and bears his usual lofty mitre: his garments are blue. Isis is represented with the head of a lioness or panther, surmounted by the globe, with a serpent, the emblem of eternity, twisted round its surface*: her garments are red. The goddess is here contemplated in her destructive character, of which the red garments and the panther's head are emblematic, on the same principle that *Bhavani*, when worshipped as *Kali*, is invested with new symbols and attributes. These three figures are again repeated on the northern wall. On the left, or western wall, are nine other figures, probably belonging to the history of the same event, but whose employment it seems difficult to conjecture. They are thus distributed:—1. A red hawk-headed god. 2. A bearded figure, green and blue. 3. A red figure. 4. Green and blue. 5. Isis; on her head the globe surrounded by a serpent. 6. Osiris. 7. A red male figure, with the Lingam issuing from his mouth, and entering a kind of sheath, which floats in the air to receive it; emblematic, perhaps, of the influence of the sun upon the air in spring. 8. Tho^t *ibiocephalus*†, with a kind of caul, like the bag of the pelican, extending from the head behind: colour red. 9. A yellow

* The world, in the mythology of the Hindoos, is said to rest upon the thousand-headed serpent *Ananta*, a personification of eternity.

† That is, with the head of an ibis.

goddess, with blue mitre, bearing a graduated staff. Hieroglyphical inscriptions extend above the heads of the figures, along the upper part of the wall, in which the history of the whole transaction, whatever it was, lies, perhaps, concealed.

CCIX. From this chapel we proceeded to the ruins of the palace of Memnon. The sands of the desert, accumulated by the winds of many thousand years, have entered its magnificent halls and chambers, and gradually risen so high, that, in some places, they even conceal a portion of the capitals of the columns. This building, of a parallelogrammatic form, three hundred and fifty feet in length by one hundred and fifty in breadth, is constructed, roof and all, of enormous blocks of stone, more resembling such as are beheld in Cyclopean structures than even those of the pyramids. Having walked about for some time upon the roof, now not greatly elevated above the surrounding sands, we descended through a passage on the western side into the great hall, or audience chamber, of Memnon. The roof of this apartment seems to be supported — for the sand and darkness preclude all possibility of speaking with certainty — by thirty-two pillars, disposed in four rows, and surmounted by plain square capitals, or plinths, differing in form from those found in other parts of Egypt. The diameter of the shaft is about four feet, and the intercolumniations two diameters and a half. The length, therefore, of the apartment must be about one hundred and thirty feet; its breadth

about sixty-five. The roof is flat, and formed, like that of the temples, of immense slabs of stone, extending from one row of pillars to the other. Around this great hall are numerous smaller chambers, all now entirely choked up, excepting at the southern extremity, where we entered through a break in the outer wall into an apartment of spacious dimensions.

CCX. It is not a little strange that what appears to be the principal front of this magnificent palace should be toward the west, where all prospect is cut off by the lofty mountains of the Libyan range, at the foot of which it is situated. Along the whole of this façade there appears to have run a kind of skreen or colonnade, not connected above by a roof with the body of the building ; and a still more remarkable feature in this portion of the structure is, that opening into the colonnade there is a series of spacious and lofty arched chambers, into which, perhaps, during the great heats of summer, the inhabitants of the palace retired for coolness. Strabo, observing their construction from the pavement below, was led to suppose that the entire span of these arches was cut in one single stone ; and Sir Frederic Heniker, who enjoyed the advantage of examining them as nearly as he pleased, repeats the assertion of Strabo. But the fact is not exactly so : for the stones upon which the arched block rests on either side enter into the bend of the simicircle, and form a part of the span. In the roof of these remarkable chambers we

observed two small and nearly square apertures, descending obliquely as far as we could see ; but what their use may have been, or where they terminate, we could not discover.

CCXI. Such are the observations suggested by an examination of the ruin as it at present appears ; but it is probable that, were the sand and rubbish cleared away, we should find the principal entrance, with a portico, or the remains of one, on the eastern side, with windows, opening, perhaps, from the great hall upon the rich plain of Abydos ; and discover many other particulars respecting the interior details, at which we can only guess at present. To the architect it is an object of much greater curiosity than the temples or palaces of Thebes, which, however vast, were never constructed upon one original design, but gradually enlarged and beautified as one prince after another added a portico or a propylon to the labours of his predecessors ; whereas the Memnonium at *Abydos*, in all probability the most ancient edifice, sacred or profane, in all Egypt, was evidently erected at a heat by one architect, who knew how to conceive a noble design, and had the means at his disposal of effecting it in a noble manner.

CCXII. From the palace we proceeded to the tombs, across the mounds of sand which have overwhelmed the ruins of the city. Here we found abundant proofs that the people who constructed these sepulchral chambers understood the principle of the

arch ; for eight or ten of them, at least, have arched roofs of brick, perfectly semicircular, with key-stone, or rather key-brick, just as we should construct them at present : but I suspect they are the productions of a late date, when the Greeks had taught the Egyptians how to turn an arch. The bricks are sun-dried, about fifteen inches in length, six in breadth, and four in thickness. The interior of the roof is covered with a thick coat of plaister, and neatly whitewashed. Among the ruins of these chambers were scattered about innumerable fragments of mummies, legs, arms, skulls, vertebræ, &c. covered with wrappers of coarse linen, and a coating of bitumen. Many of the mummies were nearly entire, having been merely broken off in the middle by the spoliators of the grave, for the purpose of tearing away the papyri and funeral ornaments usually found below the breast. One of the skulls was of an extraordinary size. Mingled with these human remains were skulls of dogs, foxes, jackals, and ibises, with other bones. There are several square mummy pits, forty or fifty feet deep, with large sepulchral chambers at the bottom ; but they had all been entirely cleared of their contents. In the midst of these brick tombs we found the shattered remains of an elegant mausoleum in white stone, beautifully sculptured both within and without with hieroglyphics, and figures in *intaglio*, among which is that of Osiris orthophallus : but in all these sacred sculptures the deity is represented as if Typhon had reduced him to the state of Abelard ; a circumstance which the antiquarians have not

hitherto explained. This mausoleum, as the Arabs informed us, formerly contained a fine statue (they may have meant a sculptured sarcophagus), which was removed for Signor Drovetti, by Padre Ledislao of *Girgeh*. The ravages committed by this brutal monk and others among these ruins, by order of Drovetti, who had obtained from the ignorant and unreflecting Pasha a firman for the purpose, would in any civilised country have conducted the perpetrators to the galleys. The riflers of graves in England have poverty and the interests of an useful profession to plead; but the persons engaged in these equally disgraceful transactions, conducted with the most wanton contempt of every feeling of taste and humanity, could be actuated by no possible motive but the most inordinate and sordid love of money. It is with surprise, therefore, that I find the able compiler of a recent work on Egypt, speaking with something like approbation of the "rich harvest" obtained by Drovetti among these ruins: had he known the manner in which that "harvest" was gathered, he would, I trust, have alluded to it in an entirely different tone. At a short distance to the north, are the ruins of a considerable temple, constructed with the same beautiful white stone as the tomb. The walls as usual, are covered with painted sculpture, representing the popular gods, and small models of temples, filled with pigmy images, like those found, according to Herodotus, in the temple of Vulcan at Memphis, and borne along on poles, like sedan chairs, by bare-headed priests. In

a niche in the pronaos is a figure of Isis, in *alto rilievo*, much mutilated ; and on the opposite side, the lower part of what probably was a figure of Osiris. The white columns of the portico are painted in brilliant colours, still fresh and vivid. The stone with which this temple is built — the most beautiful I have any where seen — may still, according to the Arabs, be obtained in the greatest abundance among the neighbouring mountains.

CCXIII. On returning to our kandjias at *Bel-lianeh*, we found every thing in confusion. In the morning, shortly after our departure, the *reis* of my boat having landed to purchase provisions had, in a by-street, been surrounded by three Arabs, who pretended to have received an order to conduct him before the governor. Mohammed, a hasty passionate man, replied that the governor could have no business with him, and was about to pass on, when one of the ruffians seized him by the throat, and another by the arms ; while the third, thrusting his hands into his pocket, robbed him of what money he had — twenty-five piastres, according to his account. It appeared, however, that they were actually employed in kidnapping for the army, and it probably was their custom to rob the persons whom they thus impressed ; for the unfortunate *reis* was immediately dragged before the governor, but, upon explaining his condition and engagements, obtained his dismissal ; the captains of boats being exempt from impressment. Overjoyed at escaping, and fearful of the results of a complaint

against the Arabs, he said nothing at the time about the money which he had lost, but hastened on board.

CCXIV. When we returned from *Abydos*, both boats had put off from the shore, whilst their crews, in the greatest consternation, lay for the most part concealed beneath the deck. Mohammed related what had happened. Taking him along with us, we immediately returned into the town, in search of the governor, whom we found sitting cross-legged smoking under a tree, in company with several other Turks. The case was stated, and the man who had taken the money pointed out by the *reis* among the by-standers. The Turk was exceedingly polite. I showed him my *firman*; but he said it was quite unnecessary; that it was his duty to do justice; and that, accordingly, if witnesses could be produced to prove the fact, he would himself repay the money. As no one, however, had beheld the affair but the robbers and the robbed, witnesses, of course, were not to be found; but the *reis* persisting in his charge, the governor commanded the accused to be bastonaded. I expected to see the portable stocks and the *koor-bash* forthwith appear; but, instead of this, beheld the culprit fall on his face upon the ground, while the governor, rising from his seat, and laying aside his pipe, seized a large cudgel, and immediately began himself to inflict punishment, not as is usual, on the soles of the feet, but upon the reins. The blows were terrific, and the Arab quickly began to conjure him by the Prophet, and by his beard, to have pity,

and spare him ; but made no offer to refund the money. At one of the strokes, which fell directly on the spine, he writhed most fearfully, and turned round upon his side, as if in the agonies of death ; upon which we interfered, and requested that he might be punished no farther. The governor struck hard, but seemed to be by no means in a passion ; though, to oblige us, I verily believe he would have beaten the man to death. Yet he had all the appearance of a highly good-natured man, from whose character, if we might judge by the countenance, nothing could be more foreign than habitual cruelty.

CCXV. When this disagreeable affair, which did not occupy many minutes, was over, we returned to the kandjias, and, finding the wind fair, immediately set sail. It now appeared that the crew of the other boat, *reis* and all, had been too much afraid, though in want of food, to venture at all on shore ; and that the *reis*, a robust, powerful man, had crept down under the planks which form a part of the deck, where he had lain hidden all day, in spite of the cravings of hunger. Soon after dark we arrived at the point of an island, dividing the Nile into two apparently equal channels, of which Monro's kandjia took the eastern and mine the western. For some time it seemed that we had done wisely, this channel being much the shorter ; but at length the boat struck repeatedly upon the sand, and was each time got off with increasing difficulty ; upon which an Arab was sent forward to explore the remainder of the channel,

for the southern extremity of the island was now in sight. With a short pole in his hand, he waded along carefully for a considerable distance ; but found the water not up to his knee. We were therefore compelled to return down the stream ; and, after beating about until midnight, moored off the island near *Khiam*.

CHAPTER XIII.

MAGNIFICENT LANDSCAPE—SITE OF CHÆNOBOSCION—DENDERA—
 FIRST VIEW OF THE TEMPLE—WORSHIP OF VENUS—SEVERAL
 NAMES OF THE GODDESS—VARIOUS HYPOTHESES CONCERNING
 HER NATURE—BEAUTY OF THE ARCHITECTURE—DESCRIPTION
 OF THE TEMPLE—THE PRONAOS—THE COLUMNS—CAPITALS
 —MYTHOLOGICAL PAINTINGS—THE SEKOS—DIVIDED INTO
 NUMEROUS APARTMENTS—SYMBOLICAL SCULPTURES—EXTERIOR
 DECORATIONS—HUMAN SACRIFICES—CHAPEL OF ISIS—THE
 TYPHONIUM—GHENEH—SHELLS OF THE RED SEA—RECRUITING
 FOR THE ARMY—BAZAR—PILGRIMS—BARDAKS—VISIT TO THE
 GOVERNOR—SAIL FOR THEBES.

Friday, Jan. 4. *Gheneh.*

CCXVI. OUR Arabs being exceedingly anxious to overtake their companions, set out this morning long before day, and, after proceeding several miles, found them still moored on the island, not so far south as we had advanced on the opposite side the evening before. The wind continued fair during the whole day; a fortunate circumstance, as in this part of the valley there is nothing to detain the traveller. However, being in want of bread, we landed in search of it near *Sakhel Abu Zabat*, but found none, either in that village or any other in the neighbourhood. The *doum* palm here begins to be thickly intermingled with the date tree, and many noble old sycamores are

found near the villages on the banks of the river. Soon after passing *Haou* (the *Diospolis Parva*, or “Lesser Thebes,” of the ancients), an abrupt bend in the river presented to our view one of the most magnificent landscapes in Egypt. The eye accustomed to the savage beauties of nature can never be weary of looking on such scenes. But the imagination, seeking, perhaps in vain, in the descriptions of the traveller, those distinguishing features that constitute the characteristics of a landscape, rendering it essentially different from all others, may possibly grow tired of the verbal pictures of them ; since language knows not how to represent in colours sufficiently bold and glowing the sublime forms which nature, in such regions, frequently delights to assume.

CCXXVII. The mountains of the Arabian chain, having made a wide circuit to the east, are seen, a little above the ruins of *Chœnoboscion*, running across the plain towards the Nile, almost in a right line ; and having approached within about three miles of its channel, they suddenly rise greatly in elevation, and, towering perpendicularly to a vast height, again sweep round towards the east, presenting to the eye one of the most stupendous chains of rocky precipices in the world. The extreme point of this mountain promontory, the foot of which is nearly washed by the Nile, wears from afar the appearance of a lofty Gothic castle, of prodigious magnitude and grandeur, with huge projecting bastions, and regular battlements, adorned all round, notwithstanding its

vastness, with magnificent tracery ; and the resemblance, from a distance, was so striking, that we were for a moment in doubt. At the foot of this colossal structure, more sublime than was ever raised by man, there runs a narrow belt of cultivated land, covered with rich grass, corn, and woods of *doum*, date, and mimosa trees, up to the very site of *Chænoboscion*. The wind blew with extreme violence as we passed these mountains, and my *kandjia*, which was going at an extraordinary rate, narrowly escaped being overturned. In the course of the day we saw several crocodiles, — as many, I imagine, as fifteen at a time ; — and among these there were some which could not have measured less than twenty-five or thirty feet in length. The balls fired at them appeared to rebound from their “scaly rinds” harmless as hailstones ; nor did such as were hit seem to quicken their pace in the least when jumping into the river with the rest. Though the heat of the sun was greatly tempered by the wind, it still appeared to have more power than with us in July ; yet, though bathed in perspiration, we did not find walking unpleasant, even in the hottest part of the day. Being eager to reach Déndera, and the wind continuing to blow almost without intermission, we sailed all night, and, a little before sunrise, moored on the eastern bank, opposite the temple.

Saturday, Jan. 5. *Déndera*.

CCXVIII. Though I had not retired to rest until four o'clock in the morning, we were again stirring

at an early hour, being impatient to visit the ruins. The greater part of the plain east of the temple is covered with a sort of sedge, — here used in making fine mats, — which, having been recently burned, was now springing up beautifully, rivalling in appearance the green corn, with patches of which the plain was interspersed. The modern village of *Déndera*, at a short distance to the right, is embosomed in a thick grove of *doum* palms, and many of these trees are scattered singly over the plain. Having proceeded about two miles from the banks of the Nile towards the west, we began to enter upon the mounds, partly overgrown with sedge, which mark the site and conceal the substructions of *Tentyris*. A little farther the sedge disappears, and we find ourselves among those confused irregular heaps of bricks, sun-dried and burnt, calcareous stone, broken pottery, and fine dust, which invariably point out to the traveller the site of an Egyptian city. The path leading across the plain towards the ruins — and it leads to nothing else — greatly resembles that which, in remote parts of England, conducts you from some small hamlet to the distant church — small and narrow, but well beaten by the feet of taste and learning. Here and there among the rubbish you observe numerous excavations, made by the Arabs in the vain search after treasure, or by trading antiquarians, who regret to find whole temples not portable.

CCXIX. At length a turn in the path brought us suddenly in sight of the most beautiful temple in

Egypt, erected, as it well deserved to be, in honour of the Goddess of Love. From the first glance I discovered that the noble propylon, which a few years ago excited the admiration of Hamilton, had recently been visited by the hand of the spoiler; but although much of the front has been thrown down, and the stones either broken or carried away, enough still remains to justify the praises which a refined taste has bestowed upon it. I could not pause, however, to examine minutely this inconsiderable fragment. Hastening forward across the dromos, I eagerly drew near the façade of Venus's temple; and if I had felt any toil or difficulty during the whole of my journey, the pleasure of that moment more than repaid it all. But much of the delight which, in common with many other travellers, I experienced at the first sight of the great temple of *Tentyris*, might be traced, both in them and me, to causes extremely foreign to the beauties of architecture; though we are apt, upon the spot, in the hurry and confusion of our feelings, to attribute all our satisfaction to the irresistible effect of beauty and harmonious propositions on the mind. The fables of the mythology, delightful because studied when every thing is so, have consecrated in the memory of all educated men the imaginary being who was here adored of old; and few are so steeled by their passage through the world, as not occasionally to experience, when the scenes which feasted their boyish fancies, with all the bright associations that cling to them, are again instantaneously spread before the mind, some touches of enthusiasm, warm and vivid in

proportion as the studies to which they owe their birth have been more or less pursued. Other emotions also have their influence. The pleasure of beholding for yourself an object greatly celebrated, yet seen by comparatively few ; a secret reference to the ages it has endured ; the fact that it has outlived the religion and the race for whom it was erected ; that it remains, almost solitary, in the midst of a city long ruined, as if the power in whose honour it was erected still protected its ancient fane from utter destruction.

CCXX. And what was this power? The same, I apprehend, to whom the Pyramids were erected, —Bhavani, Athor, Aphrodité, Venus, whose symbols were the cow, the lotus-flower, the cone, the triangle, the kteis or yoni ; and who, under different names, was worshipped throughout the whole Pagan World. Isis, in the conception of the philosophers, was a personification of nature in general ; Athor, of that principle by which homogeneous and congruous elements are attracted towards each other, and united for the generation of new beings ; whence the universe is peopled with beautiful forms, which, under the influence of the primitive energy, successively transmit to other forms the imperishable essence of life, originally infused into them by Athor.* Such, it appears to me, was the idea which the Orientals anciently entertained of Venus. The Greeks, when their fancy peopled heaven and earth with gods, conceived this

* Hence she is called the "Mother of Gods and Men." — *Apul Met.* l. xi. *Ovid. Fasti.* iv. 99. sqq.

plastic power of nature somewhat differently* ; for I can by no means adopt the vulgar hypothesis that they borrowed their gods from the East. Observing the effect, among mankind, of beauty and a lively playful temper, they imagined a being endowed in the highest possible degree with those qualities, and placed her on Olympus, among the immortals, to preside over the delights of gods and men, the perpetuation of the human race, and of every thing which breathes the breath of life.

CCXXI. Learned men, however, who love to entangle all subjects in the meshes of erudition, — as Vulcan once did in his net the beautiful limbs of Aphrodité herself, — have laboured with extreme earnestness to confuse our ideas respecting this goddess. Jablonski, upon the whole a judicious writer, in placing *Athor* at the head of all the gods of Egypt, as the Brahmins do *Bhavani*, seems to have been misled by the insufficient and equivocal testimony of antiquity ; for if *Neith*, a form of Isis, signify Nature, as the inscription on her statue at *Sais* clearly proves, she must then, both in antiquity and importance, have preceded *Athor*, as the whole is greater and more ancient than a part. The grammarian Orion, cited by the author of the *Etymologicum Magnum*, identifies *Athor* with the Grecian Venus, and observes, that the third month of the Egyptian year was named after this goddess. Hesychius, whose testimony on

* Plutarch, in *Vitâ Crassi*,

this point is also supported by Orion, insists that the word *Athor*, among the Egyptians, signified a *cow* as well as a month ; but this can only be understood of the cow when regarded as a symbol of Venus. Jablonski, who had studied Egyptian mythology more closely than Orion, clearly discerned the great dissimilarity between the Venus of the Greeks and the Egyptian Athor, who, in many respects, he observes, rather resembled Juno ; though, according to Herodotus, Juno was unknown to the Egyptians. Several of the ancients imagined that Athor was the same with the moon ; while others, again, suppose her to have been the planet Venus, so highly venerated by the Arabs ; and Jablonski, after a wonderful range of speculation, at length confounds her with Night, worshipped as a goddess among the Phœnicians, to whom temples were erected in ancient Greece, and who, according to Hesiod, was the mother of the gods. The Egyptians, also, regarded Night as the first principle of all things. In later times, they are said to have used the word Athor to signify winter and the moon. The temples erected in Egypt to this goddess, whatever she was, were exceedingly numerous ; and cows, frequently milk-white, were usually fed in the sacred edifices, or in the adjoining meadows, exempt from labour, like the bulls of *Siva* in Hindoostan.*

* Euterpe, c. 50. Selden, *De Diis Syris*. Synt. II. c. 2. 4. Vossius, *De Idololatriâ*, Aii. c. 20. 22. Euseb. i. 10. Pausanias, in *Att. et Phoc.* Theog. v. 123. Though Night be a goddess very friendly to

CCXXII. It would appear therefore that the great temple of *Tentyris* was dedicated to the Principle of Love, which, when combined with sentiment and affection, and divested of wings, all nations have embodied in the female form. And the architect who erected this fane, in the contrivance and arrangement of its several parts,—in the capitals, in the sculpture, in the distribution of light,—seems to have had in view the awakening of a certain train of feelings, analogous in their moral character to those which are excited by the contemplation of living beauty. The cornices, the mouldings, contain the richest curves; the capitals of the columns consist of a woman's face, four times repeated, which appears to smile upon you from whatever side you regard it; the sculptures for the most part represent scenes of joy and pleasure, religious festivals, processions, groups charmed by the sounds of music, figures reclining on delightful couches, and women, all softness and benevolence, with infants of different ages at the breast. On the roof of the *pronaos*, where learned fancies have discovered astronomical signs, we observe a mythological representation of the birth of the universe from the bosom of Athor, whose outstretched arms appear to embrace the whole expanse of heaven. From her mouth issues the winged globe, emblematic

Venus, and quite undeserving of the epithet barren, bestowed on her by Spenser, we should by no means confound the one with the other. If Venus be the Queen of Love, Night may be regarded as her mother.—*Panth. Egypt.* l. i. pp. 4. 27.

of the self-poised world, floating, as if on wings, through immeasurable space. Her womb also gives birth to the sun and moon, which, as soon as born, diffuse their light and generative influence over the whole of sublunary nature; while the other gods, with their stellar mansions, mystic symbols, transmigrations, avatars, and earthly representatives, are seen moving in order along the firmament, enveloped within the skirts of her starry robe. She is, in short, that *Remphah*, "Queen of Heaven," with whose worship the Scriptures reproach the old idolaters; and every image in her temple at *Tentyris* breathes of that voluptuous spell by which her votaries were bound,—

"Whose wanton passions in the sacred porch
Ezekiel saw, when, by the vision led,
His eye surveyed the dark idolatries
Of alienated Judah."

CCXXIII. Such, unquestionably, appears to me the design of the architect; and, if this be the case, he has triumphantly succeeded in embodying his conceptions; the sentiments awakened in the mind of the spectator, though the religion of which they once formed a part be extinct, being precisely those to which he must have been desirous of giving birth. But, to come to the description of the material object: the most prominent feature in this style of architecture is that grand projecting cornice, curving outward from the moulding which divides it from the

frieze, like the graceful bend of the palm-leaf. In the centre of the cornice, immediately above the entrance, is the winged globe, and on either side are hawks, vultures, eagles, with outspread wings, and the characteristic mitres of the gods to whom they were sacred. The high *torus*, or moulding, which runs between the cornice and the frieze, descending along the corner of the building to the ground, appears to enclose the whole façade like a frame. A head of Athor, in *intaglio*, with the cobra di capello springing from the front of the tiara, occupies the centre of the frieze, immediately to the right of which Isis is seated beside Osiris on her throne; while a long procession, consisting of thirty-one figures, approaches the gods. In front are four priests with lofty mitres, each bearing in his hand a staff, surmounted by the budding lotus; these are followed by a woman with uplifted hands; and to her succeed three bird-headed figures, in whose train advance numerous persons of both sexes, some bearing offerings, others casting incense on small lotus-shaped altars. Several women, in gait and gesture resembling the Bacchantes of Greece, are playing on sistrums, tambourines, tabors, &c.; and one of these, the ninth from the corner of the building, is represented touching a small beautiful ten-stringed harp, placed beside her on a high square stool. The frieze on the left of the door-way contains a repetition of the same figures, but bearing different offerings, and otherwise varied in appearance.

CCXXIV. The pronaos is adorned with twenty-four columns, arranged in six rows, three on either side. In the front row, the intercolumniations have been built up to about half the height of the columns on both sides of the entrance, thus, in a great measure, spoiling the effect of the whole ; but, as the shafts still appear slightly projecting beyond the wall all the way down to their base, it is to be presumed that we owe this deformity to the corrupt taste of a period greatly posterior to the era of the temple. This wall, which causes the spaces above between the pillars to assume the appearance of so many windows, is adorned with its cornice, and loaded with hieroglyphics, figures in *intaglio*, and all those luxuriant ornaments in which this style of architecture delights ; but greatly diminishes from that air of beauty, mingled with grandeur, which those lofty columns, surmounted by the most striking capitals, and covered with a barbaric profusion of painted sculpture, would otherwise have possessed. On either side of the entrance, a little below the cornice, a large block of blue granite is inserted in this mural skreen, among the whitish sandstone with which the rest of the edifice is constructed, offending the eye by an ill-judged attempt at producing effect ; a circumstance sufficient of itself to convince us that the skreen formed no part of the original edifice. The capitals of the columns are exceedingly peculiar, being square, and instead of foliage, having on each of their four sides, the face of Athor, coifed with a large twisted shawl, which crossing the forehead, and, passing

behind the ears, falls in large waving folds upon the neck. This curious head-dress is in three places confined by striped fillets, — in the middle of the forehead, and over each temple. The face, where not entirely mutilated, is expressive of that voluptuous softness, which is everywhere the characteristic of this goddess, but it is too broad to be strictly beautiful. Over each side of the capital a kind of cornice projects, like the curling crest of a wave of the sea; and the whole is surmounted by a high plinth, — the most tasteless and unsightly thing in the building, — having upon each of its faces the figure of a temple, with Isis suckling the infant Horus, and Osiris standing before her, sometimes naked and alone, in other places draped and with an attendant. The ceiling of the pronaos is divided into seven compartments by immense rafters of stone, which pass over the columns from the front to the cella, and are covered with mythological and astronomical figures. The ceiling itself, part of which is now blackened by time, was originally painted blue, and, as I have already observed, represents the birth of all things from the womb of Athor, who appears floating through immeasurable space, with the stars, planets, constellations, and all the “host of heaven,” moving in her train.

CCXXV. The sekos, into which we now enter, falls very far short in grandeur of the idea formed of it from the contemplation of the exterior; for we expect to find a vast hall, with long ranges of majestic

pillars, like those represented in Belshazzar's feast, which, viewed in partial gloom, might appear interminable. But, on the contrary, the cella is divided into a number of apartments, necessary, perhaps, for the peculiar worship celebrated in this temple, but destructive of architectural effect. However, in some measure to make up for this defect, the numerous walls, corridors, staircases, friezes, and architraves, are profusely covered with hieroglyphical and mystic sculpture, among which are many groups, particularly in the upper and more secret apartments, where the imagination of the artist has audaciously overstepped the bounds of decency. In fact, in whatever light the philosophers of Egypt may have regarded *Athor*, it is quite clear, both from these sculptures, and the testimony of ancient authors, that both priests and populace confounded her with Venus Pandemos, who must always have been a favourite divinity among a nation so licentious and depraved as the ancient Egyptians.

CCXXVI. A dim light, sufficient for the mysteries here celebrated, is admitted into the lower apartments by apertures in the wall, which, externally narrow, diverge inwards for the better distribution of the scanty rays. From a small dark chamber on the right hand, a long sculptured corridor, now nearly choked up with sand, leads to the foot of the staircase, which mounts by an easy ascent to the upper suites of apartments and the roof. On the immense

blocks of stone which form the roof of the pronaos are carved the names of numerous travellers, both from the old and new world—but chiefly English. The upper chambers have suffered much more than those below from the wanton depredations of antiquarians, who, in their pretended zeal for the arts, mutilate and destroy, wherever they are permitted, the noblest monuments of antiquity. It was from one of these small chambers that *Saulnier* and *Le-lorrain*, with a barbarism which would have disgraced a Huron, cut away the circular zodiac. But innumerable sculptured groups remain, many of which are capable of interpretation; and among these there is one on the ceiling which particularly interested me. A bearded figure, with his feet turned up to his head, so as with his body to form a complete circle, is represented surrounded with diverging beams, like the rising sun. Directly opposite is the figure of a woman, with legs and arms outstretched, so as to describe a lunar crescent, and having her face turned towards the man, who seems to light up and kindle her whole figure with his rays. This is obviously a representation of the influence of the sun upon the moon. On the sides and bosom of the female are numerous diminutive figures of mortals, adoring the full moon, on whose disk is a woman walking on her hands and feet, in order to resemble a cow, the symbol of Athor. On her arms is depicted a globe with human legs, alluding, perhaps, to that article of their philosophical creed which taught that the world

was a vast animal, the same on a grand, as man is on a small, scale.*

CCXXVII. Passing from this apartment into another, we find a minute representation of the loves of Isis and Osiris, with most of the subsequent events of their fable, including his burial; but these, with many other sculptured scenes in this temple, decency forbids us to describe. From the examination of the interior, which, were all the fables alluded to understood, might occupy and amuse the mythological student for six months, we proceeded to observe the exterior walls, beginning with those on the east, which have recently been partly pulled down by the governor of the district. The figures, unless where purposely destroyed, are here in better preservation than in the interior, where the smoke of lamps, the dung of bats and birds, and the natural effect of a close nitrous atmosphere, have combined to obliterate the finer touches of the chisel. The groups which adorn the eastern wall of the temple, remarkable in many respects, are rendered doubly so by their probable connection with a human sacrifice, which is going on before Osiris near the southern extremity of the building. Antiquarians who seek for perfection in the character and institutions of the nations whose remains they study, and, like hired advocates,

* *Diodorus Siculus*, i. 11. The *μακρόκοσμος* and *μικρόκοσμος* of the Greeks. The Hindoos still entertain the same idea of the universe. *Creuzer, Rel. de l'Ant.* i. 273. 649. And Kepler, in his old age, imagined that our globe was a living being.

extenuate all their vices and excesses, pretend that the ancient Egyptians never sacrificed men. But history distinctly states the fact ; and, were history silent, their own monuments speak but too plainly. The kings of Egypt, says Diodorus, immolated red-haired men, for their resemblance to Typhon, at the tomb of Osiris * ; and we almost everywhere observe upon the walls of their sacred edifices a commemoration of this barbarous practice, which subsisted until the reign of Amasis, who prohibited it at Heliopolis ; though it is probable that in the other cities and towns it continued until finally abolished by the victorious Persians. The circumstances of these sacrifices I shall elsewhere describe. Nowhere could they be more out of harmony with the *genius loci* than on Venus's temple, where every thing should rather conspire to lead the imagination to rites the very reverse of destructive. The front of the temple, from several bearings taken, during my third visit, by Lieutenant Welsted, of the Indian Navy, was found to face the N. and by E., allowing for the variation of the needle.

CCXXVIII. At the south-west corner of the larger structure, there is a small chapel dedicated to Isis, no less profusely ornamented than the other. It contains a niche which, from the fragments that remain, seems to have been occupied by a figure of Typhon, placed upon the head of that of a woman,

* L. i. c. 88.—Plutarch, de Iside et Osiride, p. 380.

draped, and now headless. If so, it could have been introduced only to receive the scoffs and insults of the votaries of Osiris. Close to the dromos, or area, of the temple of Venus, is another sacred building, which has been denominated a *Typhonium*, because upon the plinths surmounting the capitals of the columns there is an ugly figure, which is supposed to represent Typhon. It is greatly encumbered on the outside with rubbish, but is free within. The pronaos has been destroyed, and the roof of the first chamber of the sekos has fallen in. At the extremity of the adytum there is a kind of sculptured altar-piece between two pilasters, where the deity of the shrine was probably once depicted ; but the figure has been too much defaced to allow of our conjecturing what god or goddess it represented. Having spent the whole of the day among the ruins, I returned, about sunset, to my boat ; Monro, impatient to be at Thebes, having quitted the temple early in the afternoon, and preceded me up the river.

Sunday, Jan. 6. *Déndera*.

CCXXIX. There being at *Gheneh* an Arab bearing the title of English vice-consul, I this morning paid him a visit, and was very politely received. He had several sons, all grown up to manhood, one of whom I found with a Syrian merchant seated on a chair, in a kind of vestibule, where they usually receive strangers. Pipes and coffee were immediately brought in ; and, while we were smoking, an animated and not uninteresting conversation was carried on

between us, through Suleiman, who was a very good interpreter. Owing to this town's being the emporium for all goods coming into Egypt by the way of *Kosseir*, persons are here much better acquainted with the countries and productions of the farther East, than they generally are in other Egyptian towns. At this time, however, there were no Indian goods in the bazār; or, at least, none of any particular value. Here travellers who do not design visiting *Kosseir* usually inquire for those beautiful shells which are found along the shores of the Red Sea, near the Heroöpolitan Promontory, and the Port and Island of Venus; and our worthy vice-consul happening to possess nearly a thousand of these shells, among which were many of the rarest specimens known, requested me to accept of them, but, of course, consented to receive a present in return.

CCXXX. Soon after my entrance, we were joined by a Maltese physician in the service of the Pasha, whose business it was to examine the men seized in the surrounding villages for the army. He had been four months in Upper Egypt, and observed that, out of twelve hundred conscripts who ought to have been impressed and sent down to Cairo by the Mammoors, only eight hundred had hitherto been furnished. The men, he said, constantly made their escape into the mountains or the desert, where they must subsist by robbery; or blinded or maimed themselves at home. Their aversion to the army he accounted for from the lowness of their pay (not ex-

ceeding one dollar per month); the wretched provisions furnished to the soldiers; and, still more, the dishonest contrivances resorted to by the government to rob them of the miserable pittance due to them. He himself had been half a year in the Pasha's service, but had hitherto received only one month's pay. The Bedouins, he observed, are not impressed like the *fellahs*, because the Pasha fears to provoke them into revolt. When they serve in the army, it is voluntarily.

CCXXXI. With this young man, who was both inquisitive and intelligent, I walked out through the town and the bazār; where we observed among the crowd several Moggrebyn, Ababdé, and Bisharein Arabs. The Moggrebyns were closely wrapped in white burnouses; the others in brown sacks, without tarboosh or turban, trusting to their prodigious growth of black curly hair to defend their heads from the sun. All these African Bedouins have a look of gloomy ferocity, which seems to distinguish them from their brethren of Asia. *Gheneh* was at this time filled with strangers from several parts of Africa, who had there collected together, in order to proceed in company, by the way of *Kosseir*, on the pilgrimage to Mekka, with the caravan which was expected to set out in about three weeks. There were few curiosities in the bazār, all these strangers retaining their goods for the Mekka market. Among the articles exposed for sale were numerous chaplets of beads, used by

the Mohammedans in repeating their prayers, which, it was said, had been brought from the holy city ; and were manufactured of certain brown and black kinds of wood (the latter like ebony), imported, according to the merchant, from some part of India. They also manufacture in Egypt, from the fruit of the *doum* tree, very curious beads ; but these, as indigenous articles, are less valued ; just as in Sicily and Italy, no beads are so highly esteemed as those common sorts which have been blessed in the holy sepulchre by the patriarch of Jerusalem, in which the monks carry on a profitable trade. By the side of these holy chaplets were certain small shells, believed by the Arabs to be a charm against ophthalmia, if rubbed over the eyelids just as the disease makes its appearance.

CXXXII. In the factories, where the celebrated *Gheneh* jars are made, the men were not at work, nearly the whole population being engaged in celebrating, with feasting, music, and abstinence from labour, the festival of their patron saint. I, however, inquired of several manufacturers respecting certain perfumed jars supposed to be fabricated at this place. They assured me the opinion that any perfume is mingled with the clay, for the purpose of scenting the water preserved in the jars for drinking, is perfectly erroneous ; but that, in many harems, the women are in the habit of burning mastic on a small chaffing-dish, and holding the mouth of the jars over

the smoke ; by which means they communicate to them a scent which perfumes the water for eight or ten days, at the expiration of which the operation must be repeated. These jars, called *bardaks*, are small and long-necked, like bottles, and extremely frail. A larger sort also are manufactured here, which are very cheap, one as large as a barrel costing but two piastres. They are sent in great quantities all over Egypt.

CCXXXIII. A young man, born of Greek parents, having attached himself to our boats at *Bellianeh*, we had from thence given him a passage to *Gheneh*. He was desirous of going on pilgrimage to Mekka, but had hitherto been unable to obtain a passport, fearing, perhaps, to apply for one, lest he should be taken for a soldier. Being exceedingly active and willing, and, having formerly served in the Turkish navy, he was very useful in the boat. As he seemed to believe that an application from me would procure a passport from the governor, to oblige him I called upon that important personage ; who, somewhat to my astonishment, immediately granted the request, *in order*, he said, *to oblige an Englishman*. There being no other objects of curiosity at *Gheneh*, where it was with difficulty that we found a supply of bread, I hastened to cross the river, in order to spend the rest of the day in the temple of Venus, where I remained until sunset. As I rode back, across the plain, accompanied by my Arabs, the peaks of the mountains, on both sides of the Nile, were covered

with a deep rose-colour of inexpressible beauty, heightened, perhaps, by contrast with the bright blue sky, and the dense shadows which already began to gather round their bases. In the evening I received a very welcome visit from Dr. Hogg, of Naples, who, having ascended the river as far as the second cataract, was now returning to Cairo. He had purchased several papyri, cineral urns, small mummies, &c. at Thebes; and his companion had a small living crocodile, about eighteen inches long, which he kept on board, putting it into water about two hours per day.* The French employed in removing the obelisk from Luxor, obtained a number of crocodiles' eggs, which were hatched by the heat of the atmosphere on the way to Cairo.

Monday, Jan. 7. *Negâdeh.*

CCXXXIV. The wind being favourable I quitted *Déndera*, not without regret, though proceeding towards Thebes. I omitted to examine the sites of Coptos, Pampanis, Maximianopolis, and Tathyris, though, were sufficient time given to the investigation, important discoveries might, probably, be made there. This whole day was consumed in abridging the voluminous notes made at *Déndera*, where patient and laborious research might, perhaps, obtain materials for a complete Egyptian Pantheon. The breeze, though favourable, was exceedingly faint. A day's sail, with a good wind, ought to have brought us to

* This crocodile I did not see, its owner being absent with it at *Gheneh*.

Thebes ; but, at eleven o'clock, we found ourselves becalmed about a mile beyond *Negâdeh*, where we moored for the night. This town, according to D'Anville, occupies the site of Maximianopolis* ; and is said to be chiefly inhabited by Copts†, who, at the period of Mr. Jowett's visit, were supposed to amount to about two hundred families ; but, in matters of this kind, no stress can be laid on the reports of the natives, who, in every thing that concerns numbers, are almost invariably guilty of extravagant exaggeration.

* *Géographie Ancienne*, t.iii. p. 34.

† From the narrative of this traveller no very favourable opinion can be formed of the Copts of Negâdeh. "The crowd of followers was so great," he observes, "that I was annoyed with dust, and stunned with their unruly riot. The priests and masters seemed to have no power to keep them quiet, either in the church or in the school. One exclaimed, 'The Copts are like bees, running after a stranger.' . . . In a town where a few Turkish soldiers are garrisoned, the Copts would sooner run into a corner, than make such a tumult, as they did on every side at Negâdeh." — *Christian Researches*, p. 151.

CHAPTER XIV.

APPROACH TO THEBES — FIRST VIEW OF THE RUINS — SAIL FOR ESNEH — THE KING OF THE CROCODILES — MODE OF IRRIGATION — CASTOR-OIL PLANT — ARRIVAL AT ESNEH — CITY OF LATONA — PORTICO — THE COLUMNS — REMARKS ON EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE — FIGURES ON THE WALLS — GODS OF EGYPT AND GREECE — THE ZODIAC — FABLE OF THE SCARABÆUS — THE BAZĀR — GHEE — COPTIC SCRIBES — THE ROCK OF THE CHAIN — HAUNTS OF THE CROCODILES — BEAUTY OF THE NIGHTS — BRILLIANCY OF THE STARS — TRADITION OF HAJJAR SILSILIS — LEGEND OF THE CURLEW — CURRENTS OF WIND ON THE NILE — ARRIVAL AT ES SOUAN — ROMANTIC SITE OF THE TOWN — ISLAND OF ELEPHANTINE — GHĀTS AND RUINS — THE GOD KNEPH — APPEARANCE OF THE CATARACTS — NATIVES OF ELEPHANTINE — SOUTHERN EXTREMITY OF THE ISLAND — RUINS — VIEW OF THE CATARACT — ARAB CURIOSITIES — QUARRIES OF ES SOUAN — NUBIAN FEMALE COSTUME — CHAPEL — ANCIENT SUPERSTITIONS.

Tuesday, Jan. 8. THEBES.

CCXXXV. WE had scarcely rested two hours when the wind again freshened ; upon which, though it was still night, I roused the Arabs, and departed ; my anxiety to arrive at Thebes increasing in proportion as we drew nearer. The moon, which had just passed the full, shone brightly and beautifully, shedding a kind of pale daylight over the rocks and waters. I sat at the door of my cabin, contemplating in silence the obscure features of the landscape. The Arabs, drowsy from over-watching, lost their habitual loquacity. Not a sound was heard, except the ripple of

the current against the boat, or the howl of a jackal awakening the echoes far among the mountains. We were now approaching the ruins of one of the most renowned cities of the ancient world, whose glory both historians and poets have delighted to magnify, dazzled by the fame of its grandeur and prodigious antiquity, which carries back the imagination to the shadowy regions of tradition, the youthful freshness of the primitive earth, and the first establishments of mankind. Yet, as for several nights past I had slept but little, an unaccountable drowsiness overtook me in the midst of all these ideas ; to dispel which I was fain to have recourse to coffee and the chibouque. I remember to have fallen asleep in a Tuscan brig off Candia, during the alarm, which I shared equally with the rest, caused by the appearance of what seemed to be a Greek pirate : and now, notwithstanding the excitement of my feelings, it was with difficulty that I kept myself awake. The cold, which was this night severe, and, as usual, augmented towards morning, may perhaps have contributed to increase my heaviness.

CCXXXVI. At length, just as the east began to redden with the first light of dawn, the *reis* informed me that Thebes was in sight. On going forward, however, to the bows of the vessel, I could distinguish nothing but confused dusky masses, — the date woods and propylæa of *Karnak* and *Luxor*. I immediately landed on the African side, and by the dawning light,

mingled with that of the moon, hastened along the bank towards *Gournou*. Twilight, contrary to what is generally supposed, is very long in Egypt; for I had proceeded a full mile before it was possible clearly to distinguish objects; but, at length, the lofty propylon of the great temple of *Karnak* became distinctly visible, towering far above the tallest palm trees. From no part of the plain does the view comprehend all the ruins at once, more especially in the dim light preceding the appearance of the sun; but, knowing in what direction each object lay, my eye eagerly sought along the plain for the temples of *Luxor* and *Medinet Habou*, the Memnonium, and the Vocal Statue. The splendour and interest of the scene appeared to increase every moment, as the red light of the sun streamed upwards from behind the Arabian mountains, covering their pinnacles with a thousand varying hues, and tinging the whole quivering face of the Nile with a sanguine dye. Nowhere, at a distance from the sea, have I seen a more magnificent site for a capital city. But the plough has passed over the foundation of street, and palace, and temple, few, very few of the "houses of the gods of the Egyptians," which arose after the conflagration kindled by the torch of the Persian, being now left, where a hundred propylæa, the ornaments, perhaps, of so many sacred edifices, once waved their vast banners in the wind. Moored under the great temple of Luxor, I found the boat of my companion, who informed me that a party of Indian officers, arrived a

few days before across the desert from the Red Sea, were to depart next day for Cairo, and had kindly offered to take charge of any letters we might have for Europe ; in consequence of which, though in the midst of objects so interesting, we spent the whole day in writing, and deferred until the morrow our cursory view of Thebes.

Wednesday, Jan. 9. *Hermontis.*

CCXXXVII. Though desirous of hastening into Nubia before the water should be so low at the cataract as to prevent our ascent, we nevertheless could not quit Thebes without glancing over its ruins, colossal statues, enormous walls, covered with sculptured battle scenes ; its magnificent avenues of sphynxes ; its prodigious gateways, forests of pillars, obelisks, and propylæa ; its painted tombs, and mighty statues. But we restrained our curiosity, and, setting sail after a short survey, proceeded up the river towards *Esneh*. The wind, however, which had tempted our departure, proved weak and variable, and, about sunset, died totally away, constraining us to moor for the night a little to the south of *Hermontis*, where, according to the Arabs, the *Sultan et Timsah*, or “ King of the Crocodiles,” resides. These animals, which chiefly abound in the portion of the Nile extending between *Manfaloot* and this place, here attain an enormous magnitude ; but from this point, except, perhaps, in the immediate neighbourhood of *Koom Ombos*, they gradually become smaller and more rare as you ascend the Nile.

Thursday, Jan. 10. *Esneh*.

CCXXXVIII. There being little wind, we were this day obliged to have recourse for some time to tracking. Here we saw a phenomenon in Egypt — two isolated mountains springing up from the plain, on the African bank ; the one close to the river, the other running parallel with it at a short distance to the westward. Landing on the western bank, I observed the peasants busily employed in raising water for irrigation, with the lever and basket ; a rude hydraulic apparatus consisting of two uprights and a cross-beam, placed like a doorway over a narrow canal, with a pole, having, at one end, an osier bucket, and a large lump of hardened earth at the other, traversing the beam. As the Nile in this part of the country never overflows its banks, the canals are very numerous, and appear abundantly sufficient for the purposes of irrigation, the whole plain being covered with luxuriant verdure. In several places, we saw plantations of the *kharwah*, or castor-oil plant ; a very beautiful shrub. The oil is used by the Nubian women to soften their hair, and for many other purposes. During this walk I passed within a short distance of the site of *Asphinis*, where there are still, according to the Arabs, some slight traces of the ancient city ; and arrived at *Esneh* about two hours after sunset. Here I heard an anecdote, illustrative of the manner in which justice is administered in this country. The boat's crew of two *English* travellers, being engaged in a quarrel with the crew of another kandjia, were beaten by the owners, three Turkish

soldiers in the service of the Pasha. To obtain redress for this insult, the travellers made application to the governor of the next town; who, for their satisfaction, immediately ordered the *koorbash* to be administered, — not to the soldiers, who had been guilty of the outrages—but to the *reis* of the boat, who had been nowise implicated in the affair. He then inquired if the complainants were satisfied, — which he must have done in mockery; — and they, fearing that the *reis* might be again beaten as the proxy of the Turks, very coolly replied in the affirmative. A representation of the affair to Mohammed Ali would have procured the petty governor's recal.

Friday, Jan. 11. *Taphnis*.

CCXXXIX. Latopolis, the original name of *Esneh*, has been by some derived from that of a species of fish at present unknown, which, they say, was anciently worshipped in this city. But it would rather seem to signify “the City of Latona,*” — the *Bouto* of the Egyptians, — a goddess of great import in their mythology, who it is said, possessed in Egypt an oracular shrine, celebrated for the truth of its responses, delivered, probably, from the identical temple, the portico of which still exists. This magnificent ruin, which has perhaps obtained from travellers less notice than it deserves, must unquestionably have belonged to one of the most elegant structures in Egypt. Yet

* *Δηρούς πόλις*.

the portico, on the ceiling of which the famous zodiac is painted, however ancient it may be, is less so than the cella, the front of which projects into the pronaos subsequently erected about it, so as to leave a small aperture between the original edifice and the more modern addition. From the style of the architecture and sculpture, strongly resembling that of the temple of Philæ, it appears extremely probable that this pronaos is a Ptolemaic structure ; consequently, the vast antiquity claimed for it by the fanciful interpreters of its zodiac is a vain chimera. How long the erection of the sekos may have preceded that of the pronaos, it is of course impossible to determine ; but it would, I apprehend, be absurd to assign it a much older date, since the whole harmonises well together, unlike the patch-work temple of *Dakke* in Nubia, where the modern additions are palpably in a different style from the original building.

CCXL. The length of the pronaos is one hundred and twenty-four feet, its depth sixty-seven ; but from the great accumulation of the soil around, I could only conjecture that it may have been about fifty feet in height. It has an elegantly painted cornice, torus, and frieze, and its walls, columns, architrave, plinths, are richly sculptured with the mysterious figures of the gods and goddesses of Egypt ; among which that of Osiris Ammon, the ram-headed god of Thebes, is perhaps the most prominent. Unfortunately, the ruin is so closely and thickly surrounded by the houses of

the inhabitants, that its walls can only be approached in a few places ; so that, in an attempt to examine an interesting group on the northern extremity, we were near committing an unpardonable offence, by intruding into the harem of a respectable man. The cella is entirely buried beneath the rubbish, and a part of the town built over it. Government having converted the portico into a warehouse, it is in some measure protected from wanton dilapidation ; but, as the exterior intercolumniations, originally encumbered with a mural skreen, have now been built up to the architrave, the whole interior is buried in almost total darkness, and must be examined by tapers, like a hypogeum.

CCXLI. Immense blocks of stone, resting on rafters of the same material, and extending from the façade to the cella, constitute the roof of the pronaos. The columns, twenty-four in number, and seventeen feet two inches in diameter, are disposed in six rows, three on either side of the entrance. The central intercolumniation, leading to the sekos, is seventeen feet in breadth ; the others measuring nine feet three inches. A profusion of sculpture adorns the shafts, and the capitals are exceedingly beautiful, the foliage, which, in some cases, represents that of the palm tree, projecting in a series of curves, leaf behind leaf, scarcely yielding in richness to that of the Corinthian order ; while others consist of a cluster of lotus leaves, sculptured with equal delicacy, and no less beautifully arranged than the former. But although

each column, viewed separately, irresistibly excites our admiration, the effect of the whole is highly incongruous. This defect in Egyptian architecture appears susceptible of explanation. In a forest, the beauty of the oak seems to be enhanced by the neighbourhood of the ash or the elm, which, perhaps, misled the Egyptians, who thought, if the beauty of a forest consists in the variety of its trees, a portico would, for the same reason, be more beautiful in proportion to the dissimilarity of the columns of which it is composed: but the comparison is incorrect; for a tree is a whole; a column is not; it is but as a branch; and, until we shall desire to see the sycamore, the chestnut, the ash, and the lime engrafted upon the oak, a portico consisting of a monstrous combination of several orders of architecture can never be considered other than as a splendid toy. Our Norman and Gothic ancestors were often guided by the same perversion of taste, which mistakes irregularity for magnificence; for, in the crypts of the cathedral of Bayeux, and in the tomb of Queen Matilda, at Caen, I remember to have remarked that a similar incongruity in the capitals of the columns produced the same ill effect.

CCXLII. Of the greater portion of the innumerable figures sculptured on the walls, the impenetrable gloom, in which nearly the whole pronaos is wrapped, prevented our judging with precision; for the light of the tapers, which enabled us to make

out the lower compartments, merely afforded glimpses of the dim mysterious processions of gods and mortals which seemed still to move far above in endless files along the walls. Here, however, as every where else in this country, you have abundant proof of the sensual tendency of the Egyptian religion. The Greek, impassioned and voluptuous as he was, sometimes spiritualised his gods, encircled them with images of intellectual majesty, and, through the medium of the senses, spoke eloquently to the soul. Homer's Jove, who never "slumbered or slept," represented in all his majesty by Pheidias, and surrounded by the severe beauty of his Olympian shrine, must have awakened in the soul even of an unbeliever, ideas of sublimity and religious awe; and Athena, gifted with eternal youth and beauty, preserving herself, through love of wisdom, pure from the taint of passion, was a truly divine creation of the mind — well calculated to cheer and invigorate her drooping votary, and console him for the many sacrifices which devotion to the pursuit of knowledge demands. But never could the sight of an Egyptian idol (Isis in her maternal character alone excepted) inspire any thing beyond merriment or ridicule. On all sides we have gods with dogs' heads, and cats' heads; gods with monkeys' tails and rams' tails; with foolish faces, in ridiculous attitudes, indecently exposing their persons, enjoining immodest rites, and setting the example by their own effrontery. The Jupiter of the Greeks, when he embraces Juno, surrounds himself

with an impenetrable cloud ; but Isis is introduced with the wantonness of an *almé*, approaching naked the couch of Osiris, while other goddesses are standing by. The convenient resource of allegory is, no doubt, always at hand to explain away this grossness, and to inform us for what sanctified motives the sign which decorated, at Pompeïa, houses of ill fame, should in Egypt be introduced into the very sanctuary of the gods, and offend the eye on every wall and column.

CCXLIII. The zodiac, as it is denominated, which adorns the ceiling of this portico, has, perhaps, attracted more notice than it deserves. Like that of Dendera, it would appear, in fact, to be merely a series of mythological figures, symbolical of the various offspring of the celestial Venus. On the southern wall, immediately under the zodiac, is a figure of *Bouto*, with the pschent and lituus mitre, seated on a throne, while a male god, with a sickle in his hand, is engaged before her in reaping what appears to be a handful of mingled lotus and *dhourra*. Farther back is an Ibis-headed Thoth, throned and mitred, receiving an offering of the figure of a god, with a single feather on his head. Behind Thoth, or “Thrice Great Hermes,” Aroëris, the hawk-headed divinity, appears to stand as an inferior. On the front of the cella there is a figure of Harpocrates, holding in one hand the yoni-lingam and flagellum, the fore-finger of the other being raised and pointed

to his lips ; while a male worshipper approaches him, bearing a costly offering, consisting of a bowl, a sceptre, a graduated staff, and a yoni-lingam. Near this group is Osiris on his throne, with Isis standing beside him, bearing on her head a globe, resting between the horns of a cow. Proceeding farther towards the north, we observe a youth playing on a kind of sistrum with eight strings, before Bouto, or Latona, who wields the bird-headed sceptre of the male divinities, her head being adorned with a single round-topped feather, bound on with a fillet or lotus stem.

CCXLIV. Among the interminable bas reliefs on the columns are several winged scarabæi, holding between their claws the mystic ball of cow's dung, from which, according to the Egyptians, they produced their young, without the aid of a female. This ball, when impregnated, was buried for twenty-eight days in the earth, after which, being uncovered, the young beetles crept forth ; — a fable containing, according to mythologists, some mystic allusion to the revolution of the moon, which in that period seems to terminate and renew its existence. On the mural skreen extending between the columns in front of the pronaos, we find the figure of a crocodile upon a low pedestal, while a worshipper approaches it with offerings, which he seems about to place before the god upon an altar piled with fruit and other delicacies. The crocodile bears the globe, with the uræus in front, upon his head, and immediately behind him is another

uræus with the outspread wings of the vulture. The door formerly leading into the sekos, and adorned with the usual frieze, cornice, moulding, and winged globe, is now built up and plastered over with mud. Above the cornice is another globe, apparently that of the sun, with Osiris-Ammon standing up in its centre. On the northern exterior wall, Bouto is represented standing before the throne of Isis, bearing the Kteis-Phallus in one hand, and in the other the bird-headed sceptre, with a bow and two arrows; and in front of the two goddesses is an altar, before which stands a male worshipper, bearing in one hand a staff, while the other is raised in an attitude of supplication. Upon another part of the wall, near Soukos and Ammon, is Boubasta, seated on a throne, bearing a bow and three arrows, while before her stands a hunter, just returned from the chase, with his slackened bow and unused arrows in his hand. To Ammon, who stands on the right hand of Boubasta, a worshipper is presenting an offering of five lotus flowers. A series of hawks with outspread wings runs along the upper part of the wall, as on the great temple of Apollo at *Edfou*.

CCXLV. It being market-day, the bazār, to which we proceeded on quitting the temple, was crowded with buyers and sellers, and we found provisions extremely cheap; beef, about three farthings per pound; butter*, or rather *ghee*, — a government

* This butter, which is clarified, and, when melted, nearly as clear as

monopoly,—dearer, the price being as much as three-pence halfpenny per pound ; bread and onions very cheap ; good tobacco about eightpence per pound ; Mokha coffee, another government monopoly, very dear, at least one shilling and ninepence per pound. A dancing-girl in the bazār, who took a liking to my gloves, was extremely desirous of obtaining them as a present ; but I told her the sun of *Esneh* was too warm to allow of my walking about with naked hands. Upon hers it had already done its worst, for they were nearly black. Here I saw a very pretty genteel Arab girl, about twelve years old, nearly as fair as an European, buying little cheeses, like those of Neuf-châtel. She was extremely well dressed, and followed by a female slave. The market was abundantly supplied. Heaps of corn, dates, peas, lentils, onions, and vegetables of all kinds, literally encumbered the streets ; and the peasant girls, here the principal merchants, were fat, good-looking, and merry. Having had some dealings with his Highness's representatives in this town, it was necessary to follow the *mallim*, or writer, to the fort, where two or three small pieces of ordnance overawe the navigators on the Nile. Here we found the Coptic scribes seated at dinner on the floor, round two or three trays, extremely well covered, and were invited to join them. The principal course consisted of fish, fried in oil, and

fine oil, is merely used in cooking. Though sold at a much higher price, it is eventually much cheaper than ordinary butter. It is the *ghce* of the Hindoos.

of an exceedingly good quality ; and their bread also was excellent. The costume of the Copts consists of long black robes, and black turbans ; and this, with their coarse angular features and sallow complexions, gives them a sombre funereal appearance. My companion's *reis* remaining here to bake bread for the Nubian voyage, none being to be found in that country, I set sail alone, and hurried forward towards *Es-Souan*, from whence we intended, if it should be found practicable, to proceed in one boat as far as Sukkot or Dóngola ; but the wind dying away, we made but two leagues in the whole afternoon, and moored at night off *Taphnis*. This was the first cloudy day which had for some time made its appearance.

Saturday, Jan. 12. *Fares*.

CXLVI. The wind springing up early, we departed before day, the kandjia proceeding with an unwonted degree of rapidity ; and though the ruins on both sides of the river, — *Eilithyias*, on the east, *Edfou* on the west, and, farther on, the famous quarries of *Hajjar Silsilis*, — strongly invited us to land, I deferred my visit to each of those places until our return. The lofty propylon of Apollinopolis Magna is visible, however, from the river, looking more like a fortress than the appendage to a place of worship. A little above *Esneh*, the sacred valley is greatly narrowed, the desert, in many places, reaching almost to the water's edge ; until at length, at Hajjar Silsilis, or the "Rock of the Chain," the mountains on either side approach

the stream, leaving no room for vegetation, and the Nile, straitened in its bed, roars and hurries along with prodigious velocity; so that, though aided by a strong wind, it was with difficulty we could stem the current. Black barren rocks, hewn in many places into catacombs, overhang the stream, which eternally foams and roars round their bases. Here the hills are greatly diversified in aspect, rising into numerous peaks, divided from each other by lateral valleys extending far into the desert. All this day the atmosphere was filled with fine sand, which, driven along by the wind, had, at a distance, the appearance of mist; while numerous flights of wild geese, and large snow-white storks, crowded the sandy isles. We arrived at *Fares* soon after dark, having made upwards of fourteen leagues, — the longest day's sailing since we had been on the river.

Sunday, Jan. 13. *Es-Souan.*

CCXLVII. This morning, the wind still continuing, the Arabs were stirring before the dawn. I also followed their example, and, having dressed and breakfasted by lamp-light, was walking on a low sand-bank in the river, when the sun rose. These islands are the usual haunts of the crocodiles; but as they love to bask in the warm sun, and have an aversion to cold, there is little danger of encountering them early in the morning, or when the wind blows. In fact, they seem never to rise out of the water but when the surface of the Nile resembles that of a pond, and the whole sandy shore is glitter-

ing in the sun, when you see them lying in troops along the edge of the stream. Upon the whole, they would appear to be neither very voracious nor destructive, or familiarity dissipates the dread which their appearance is calculated to inspire ; for both women and children fearlessly approach the places where they lie, while various kinds of waterfowl settle in large flights close by their side. The weather for some time has been wonderfully beautiful. Day after day the sun rises and sets in unclouded brilliance ; or, if a few light vapours appear, they only serve, by contrast, to display more strikingly the rich deep blue of the firmament : and the nights seem still more lovely than the days. Descending through an atmosphere which constantly becomes clearer in proportion as we are more closely hemmed in by the desert, the moon's light resembles a pale sunshine ; and when the moon disappears, the brilliance and lustre of the stars, many of which are not visible in Europe, scarcely permit us to regret her absence. I know not to what degree of purity the atmosphere in high northern latitudes may be brought by the intense frosts of winter ; Niebuhr was of opinion that the stars shone more brightly in Norway than in the Arabian desert ; but though the cold nights of the north may also have their charms, it is certain that in no European country with which I am acquainted has the firmament ever appeared so thickly strewn with glittering fires as in these almost tropical regions, where, perhaps, the air is no less purified by the elaboration of dew, than by frost in the precincts of the arctic

circle. All the stars and planets appeared to be of greater magnitude, but particularly Venus, the loveliest and brightest amongst the “host of heaven,” whose liquid brilliance and beauty might almost excuse the adoration of the idolaters of old. As the peasantry retire very early to rest, the night, even in the neighbourhood of the villages, is particularly tranquil; though if you ascend any eminence soon after dusk, numerous small clusters of lights are beheld twinkling afar, like bog-fires, on the plain, marking the sites of the different villages. But these soon disappear, one after the other, and nothing then remains to remind you of being in an inhabited country, save the occasional barking of a dog in some neighbouring hamlet or sheepcote.

CCXLVIII. The Arab boatmen, like the Hindoos on the Ganges, love to cook and eat their meals on shore, even at night. Last evening, while sailing between the dark rocks of *Gebel Silsilis*, we observed one solitary kandjia moored close to the land, whose crew, having kindled a large fire high up in a ravine, where they were sheltered from the wind, were observed moving to and fro before the flames, while their supper was preparing, half naked, like so many savages. The tradition which explains why these wild hills have been denominated the “Rock of the Chain” is most probably founded in truth. Formerly, according to the Arabs, during the times when Egypt was a prey to anarchy, a tribe of fierce banditti, inhabiting the catacombs, caverns,

and quarries so abundantly found here, extended a large iron chain across the Nile, by means of which they could intercept, when they pleased, any vessel sailing up or down the river. The Arabs are an inventive and poetical people. They know, after their fashion, how to explain every thing. Even the cry of the curlew, which they call *karawan*, has, they say, a solemn meaning, when translated into human language. Impressed with a due sense of the power and majesty of the Creator, this bird, in its solitary flight among the rocks, thus addresses the Deity:—*Lak, lak, lak, la shariah kalak, fi'l mulk*: that is, “To thee, to thee, to thee belongs the sovereignty of the world, without partner or companion!”

CCXLIX. The wind, which yesterday blew with so much violence that the Nile was covered with large waves, in which the *kandjia* rolled and pitched as in a stormy sea, has to-day forsaken us, so that there is scarcely a breath stirring, or the slightest ripple on the water. Were the navigation of the Nile in the hands of more observing men, it might, perhaps, be found that, owing to the direction of the rocky chains of the desert, or some other cause, at present unknown, particular parts of the river are liable to frequent and strong winds, while in others calms very commonly prevail. Near *Edfou*, for example, where we were driven along by a violent gale from the north-west, I was assured by Suleiman, who had been ten times up the country, that he had never failed to encounter a similar wind; and accordingly,

on our return, we found it still blowing. The same thing happens near *Wady Halfa* in Nuabia. A diligent survey of the structure of the surrounding country might throw some light on the causes of these phenomena, unless we suppose them to have been accidental. Unluckily for our Arabs, no breeze aided us in reaching *Es-Souan*. They were compelled to have recourse to their old method of tracking, to which, I observed, they returned more reluctantly, after the prevalence of a day or two's fair wind, than when constantly engaged in it from morning till night. Darkness overtook us a few miles below *Es-Souan*, where, pretending to fear the rocks in the channel of the river, they were desirous of mooring for the night; but by promising them a present and a long rest on the limits of Egypt, I urged them forward, and about ten o'clock arrived at Syene.

Monday, Jan. 14. *Es-Souan*.

CCL. Early this morning we passed over in a small boat to the island of Elephantine, enjoying, while rowing across the river, a view of the tombs and ruined convents on the neighbouring rocks, the modern village, and the remains of the ancient city of Syene perched high upon the hills. *Es-Souan* has very justly been denominated the most romantic spot in Egypt. It is so. For, independently of the excited imagination of the traveller, now arrived on the borders of Ethiopia, the scene about the cataracts is strange and new. But the town itself may be put

almost altogether out of the question ; as it has not even the advantage of being situated, like other Egyptian towns, in a date wood, being thrown in a straggling irregular shape on the slope of a barren hill. The view which it commands is every thing, the Nile having here the appearance of a narrow lake, surrounded on all sides by arid but picturesque rocks, at the foot of which is seen a belt of bright verdure, interspersed with scattered groves.

CCLI. As the boat darted rapidly over the water, the prospect changed every moment, one rocky height after another seeming to glide away or mingle with the distant mountains ; while the eastern hills, intercepting the morning sun, threw their long shadows over the stream. We landed on the island near a small ruined staircase, leading, apparently, to the lowest level of the river, from which it may be entered by a doorway. This has been called a Nilotometer ; but I should rather suppose it to have been merely intended for a landing-place, like those numerous *Ghâts* erected by pious individuals on the banks of the Ganges. It is now, however, in ruins, and the staircase partly filled with loose stones and mud. Nothing could be plainer than the style in which it was erected ; and being contained in a wall, built for the purpose of breaking the force of the river, and preventing it from wearing away the soil, it may formerly have led to the grounds and dwelling of some wealthy inhabitant of the island. A little farther to

the south are many immense rocks of granite, rising considerably above the surface of the Nile, in one of which is observed a round opening, about four feet in diameter, formerly, perhaps, a deep well, whose rocky sides have now been broken or worn away nearly to a level with the water. Not many yards beyond are the remains of a lofty massive wall, erected upon the granite rocks here forming the banks of the stream, and exhibiting in two or three places perpendicular bands of hieroglyphics, which Belzoni supposed to be a Nilometer; mistakenly, no doubt, as they are buried, during the inundation, far beneath the water. The ruined edifice, of which the above wall forms a part, may possibly contain the real Nilometer described by Strabo; but the whole of the interior is now so entirely filled up with rubbish, that, without laborious excavations, nothing respecting it can be ascertained.

CCLII. Proceeding still farther towards the south, we came to a ruined wall, containing two windows looking out upon the river, which would appear to have been of Roman construction; but, in reality, there are no remains on the island worthy of the slightest notice, not even the fragment of the granite propylon mentioned by former travellers; for, whatever it may once have been, it is nothing now. Elephantine anciently contained a celebrated temple of *Kneph*, or *Knuphis*, the Agathodæmon, or “Good Genius,” of the Greeks. About the signification of

the name, mythologists are divided, as usual: some supposing it to signify spirit, meditating on its own nature; others*, simply, the eternal spirit, the cause both of good and evil. The name *Kneph*, however, in its original acceptation, signified “good.” This deity, eternal and infinite, the same with *Kamophis*, has by some been identified with Canopus; and like Saturn, or Kronos, was symbolically represented by a serpent swallowing its own tail, the emblem of eternity; but in process of time was confounded with the Nile.†

CCLIII. From the edge of the river we ascended over high mounds of ruins, covered with fragments of tiles and pottery, towards the centre of the island, from whence we enjoyed a magnificent prospect. The Nile, closely hemmed in on both sides, appears, south of Elephantine, to force its way with vast difficulty between vast cliffs and terraces of granite; its whole channel, in this direction, as far as the eye can reach, being broken by a thousand islands, some consisting of a cluster of rugged pinnacles of different heights, black and bare; others appearing like a pyramid of loose masses piled on each other by the Titans; while here and there among this ruinous scene other islands of softer aspect appear, adorned with beautiful ver-

* Creuzer, *Religions de l'Antiquité*, t. i. p. 515. The ideas of this writer, who advocates the symbolical interpretation of all the objects of ancient worship, are in the highest degree misty and vague, and, in many places, not a little contradictory. His reputation is greater than his merit.

† Jablonski, *Panth. Ægypt.* i. 82, 83. 89, 90. 95. 98.

lure, reeds, and grasses, and tamarisks, which, occupying every nook and fissure, run along feathering the slopes and lofty terraces of the rocks, and waving like so many hanging gardens over the stream below. The gaps and hollows of the Libyan chain are filled with yellow sand, brought thither from the desert by the winds, by whose agency it is disposed in smooth beautiful slopes, reaching down like beds of drifted snow to the very base of the mountains, where commence the diminutive fields of alluvial soil, covered, small as they are, with luxuriant vegetation. On the east are the grey rocks and shingly slopes, among which the eye detects the scanty remains of the Roman and Saracen towns.

CCLIV. The southern extremity only of Elephantine is rocky, lofty, and barren. Towards the north, the surface of the island sinks gradually into a plain, covered with rich corn-fields, groups of cattle, date-groves, pastures, and villages. From the summit, where there is nothing but rubbish, we descended towards the granite colossal statue of Osiris, standing on the slope of the hill, among heaps of broken jars, &c. The god is represented in a sitting posture, with the arms crossed upon the breast, bearing a crosier in one hand, and a sceptre in the other; the features are nearly obliterated; in other respects the statue is in good preservation. Several of the natives now crowded about us with a few miserable antiquities, broken scarabæi, small idols of pottery, and coins half eaten with rust, which they had picked up among the

ruins. They were all ugly, squalid, and half-starved ; yet Sir Frederic Henniker and Dr. Richardson thought the women of Elephantine beautiful. On my second visit, while in search of the neat baskets of different colours which are made there, I saw nearly all the inhabitants of the island ; but I regret that I could discover nothing in the features of the natives to justify my joining in the compliment. The race, however, may have degenerated. Many of the early navigators saw beauty, we know, in the women of the South Sea Islands ; but they had been a long time at sea, and our more fastidious contemporaries call their judgment in question. Abstracting all consideration of colour, — for Memnon, whom Ulysses pronounced the handsomest man, Achilles, perhaps, excepted, on the plains of Troy, was black, — I have never seen, among either Arabs or Nubians, one woman who could be pronounced strictly beautiful. And if, as is exceedingly probable, the same thing held true of the ancient Egyptians, before the Macedonian conquest, when the mixture of Greek blood may have improved the race, we can easily comprehend why their sculptors never represented beauty ; though in the countenance of Isis there is often a placid matronly tenderness, inferior to, but not unlike, that of the Virgin, by Sasso Ferrato, and the resemblance is increased by her being generally represented with the infant Horus on her lap.

CCLV. Returning to our boat, we rowed round the southern point of the island, whose extremity is

protected from the violence of the river by prodigious blocks of granite, which in many places bear the marks of tools. The main stream of the Nile is here so narrow as to excite our pity for its fallen grandeur, being not more than two stones' throw across ; but, when we entered into the various currents which branch off, and rush with extreme impetuosity between the rocks, we quickly found that the old dragon had not lost his power. To go with the stream, however, was easy ; but when we put about, and endeavoured to row up against the current, it was a different matter ; and in turning the point of a small island, the boat struck upon a rock, and we had a narrow escape from being precipitated into the river. Fortunately, however, the boat righted, and we crossed over amid foam and eddies to the eastern shore. Landing here, we climbed the mountains of granite and sandstone to the south of the city, which command an extensive view of the cataracts, and the islands and rapids which constitute the principal beauty of the scene, together with the rugged chain of mountains forming the boundary of the desert towards the west. From the summit of an eminence, at a short distance to the east, we obtained a magnificent prospect of the commencement of the Nubian desert, rocky, dreary, desolate, and cursed with eternal barrenness. Yet the aspect of its arid surface was considerably diversified. Here you observed long ridges of grey sand, everlastingly whirled about by the winds and heated by the sun ; farther on, granite rocks of a dirty black colour, like masses of dried mud, resem-

bling in the midst of the sandy plain so many islands in the ocean ; and this alternation of dusky mounds with beds of light shifting sand, formed by the agency of the wind into valleys, circular hollows, vast wavy slopes, crested ridges, and ominous heaps, like graves, continued as far as the eye could reach. In returning to the town we passed by a sheikh's tomb, most picturesquely situated on the sharp point of a mountain, round which the wind, now very powerful, roared and blew tremendously.

CCLVI. On returning to our boats we found the reis of the cataract's deputy waiting for us, together with a camel driver, called Mohammed, well known to travellers, who was very earnest in persuading us to proceed to *Wady Halfa* on dromedaries ; this being, he said, by far the most expeditious way, since, instead of three weeks or more, which we must inevitably consume in the kandjias, we could, on dromedaries, perform the whole journey in ten days. Mohammed was a keen, shrewd fellow, who, in his way, had been a great traveller, having frequently made the perilous traject of the Nubian desert east of the Nile, by the track pursued by Bruce in his return from Abyssinia, visited many of the black countries with slave caravans, and even penetrated as far as Suakin on the Red Sea through the country of the Bisharein Arabs. He had moreover contrived, Heaven knows how, to pick up a little Italian in his journeyings, sufficient to make himself understood. Besides his business of camel-driving, he likewise exercised the

profession of a merchant, of a guide, and of a dealer in curiosities and antiquities ; and had spears, *Fellata* bows, poisoned arrows in quivers of crocodile or fish skin, ostrich eggs, feathers, &c., for sale. His prices were not exorbitant, and I purchased of him several remarkable curiosities for less than one twelfth of what would be demanded for them in Cairo. Among the articles which he exhibited to us was a spear with a rosewood-coloured handle, belonging to a native of Darfoor, and said by its owner to have been taken in battle from a black king. It was curiously ornamented with brass wire, and had no doubt been the weapon of some wealthy chief, as the spears of the common Africans are very plain and rude. Nearly all the Arabs and Nubians whom we saw here, wore upon their arms, above the elbow, amulets carefully sown up in square red leather cases, and fastened to the arm by a broad thong of the same colour. Their nature was unknown to the wearers, and their virtue, it was said, would depart from them the moment they should be opened and inspected. Some would not part at any price with these preservatives against evil, and others, whom the *auri sacra fames* overcame, asked so extravagant a price for them, that we declined the purchase altogether.

CCLVII. While we were bargaining with these chapmen, the reis of the cataract himself arrived ; a fine-looking old Arab, but whose demands for towing our kandjia up the rapids were so exorbitant, that we declined entering into any arrangement with him, and

began to negotiate with Mohammed for dromedaries, several of which were brought for trial, but all so lean, galled, and woe-begone, that, when mounted, and pressed by the saddle, they roared with pain, endeavoured to throw their riders, and became nearly unmanageable; so that they also were dismissed. Mohammed then became our guide to the granite quarries, south-east of the city, where we saw, in several places, figures and hieroglyphics rudely sculptured on the rocks. In one of the quarries was an unfinished obelisk, which had been quite severed from the rock, ready to be carried away. It was now partly covered with sand; but the part still visible measured sixty-six feet in length, nine in breadth, and about eight in thickness. It contained no figures or hieroglyphics, nor was it nicely cut and polished; it having been the practice of the Egyptians to set up these monuments in their rough state, and afterwards to smooth and sculpture them. Our guide remembered the names of nearly all the travellers whom he had conducted round the environs of *Es-Souan*, but spoke particularly of Mrs. Light, whose beauty even this rude Arab could not behold with indifference. On our way back to the town we saw a poor ass dying in a pit, into which he had fallen with his legs tied; that being the practice of the Arabs when they send out these animals to feed. Having cut the cord, we endeavoured to lift him out, but it was too late; he could make no effort to assist us, his strength being exhausted, as he had, perhaps, not tasted food for several days; yet

he raised his head, and looked wistfully around, seeming unwilling to die. A young Nubian girl, whom we met near this spot, was decked in the most strange and primitive costume I had ever beheld, though it afterwards became familiar to me in her native country: a small piece of blue cotton thrown over the shoulders, and round the loins a deep fringe of leather thongs, adorned at the top with small white shells, like the *concha veneris*, constituting the whole of her dress. The thongs, however, were so numerous, and fell about her so opportunely as she walked, that there was nothing unbecoming in her appearance. In descending towards the Nile, near the palm grove south of the town, we saw a small newly excavated chapel, picturesquely situated on the slope of the rocky hill. It had been built with a fine white stone, in a bold massive style, and, like the temples, was richly sculptured on all sides with hieroglyphics and figures of the gods; but, at the very moment of our arrival, labourers were employed in pulling it down, a part of the cornice being already on the ground, while an Arab, with a kind of pickaxe, was engaged in obliterating the winged globe. At our request he stopped for a moment, just to give us time to admire the beautiful ornament before he destroyed it; and then began to hammer away as before. There was nothing in the sculpture which could enable us to decide to what deity it had been consecrated; but this is of little moment, as, from the vigorous manner in which they were en-

gaged in the work of destruction, every trace of it, I imagine, will quickly disappear. Lower down, among the date trees, we observed four small upright columns, two of a square form ; and near them, upon the ground, two other shafts, which were double. In returning to the town along the river, we passed by that round low tower, rising out of the water like an old bastion, which is called the Nilometer of *Es-Souan*. What its original purpose may have been, I know not ; probably it once contained something like a measure, by which the inhabitants might learn the gradual rise of the river ; but, if so, the measure has now disappeared, though several holes, both round and square, remain, through which they may have observed it. In the evening the reis of the cataract had grown more reasonable in his demands, and we entered into an arrangement with him to ascend into Nubia on the morrow.

CCLVIII. The ancient inhabitants of Syene were a kind of heretics, worshipping the *phagrus*, a species of fish found in the Nile, which, according to Plutarch, assisted the *Lepidotus* and *Oxyrynchus* in devouring the phallus of Osiris, when it had been thrown into the river by Typhon. Our learned and able mythologist, Dr. Pritchard, whose work both amused and instructed me on the Nile, observes, after Plutarch*, that, in consequence of the action above commemorated, all these fishes were held in

* De Iside et Osiride, c. 72.

abomination by the Egyptians*; while Strabo, on the contrary, relates that they were regarded with religious reverence by *all the Egyptians*, being supposed to have sprung from the wounds of Osiris. But the fact is, they were worshipped by some, and eaten by others, especially by the Cynopolites. These ate them in revenge, believing them to have devoured the *αἰδοῖον* of their popular god; those venerated them, supposing that they had been miraculously produced from his blood. The people of Elephantine, no less superstitious than their neighbours, held sacred a species of fish called *mæotæ*, which were considered as prophetic messengers of the inundation.

* Pritchard, On the Mythology of the Egyptians, p. 61. 327, 328.

CHAPTER XV.

DEPARTURE FROM ES-SOUAN—ISLANDS IN THE NILE—FIRST APPEARANCE OF THE RAPIDS—DANGERS OF THE ASCENT—SUBLIMITY OF THE CATARACT—NUBIAN SWIMMERS—INFLUENCE OF THE MYTHOLOGY—PHILÆ—MOLES OR JETTIES IN THE NILE AND RHONE—INDUSTRY OF THE NUBIANS—TEMPLE OF PAREMBOLE—KARDASSI—RUINS OF TAPHIS—GATES OF KALABSHI—ASCENT OF THE LIBYAN MOUNTAINS—VIEW OF THE DESERT—TEMPLE OF KALABSHI—SYSTEM OF ORACLES—GROUP OF FEMALE PSYLLI—SAVAGE COSTUME OF THE NUBIAN WOMEN—CHARACTER OF THE NATIVES—HAMLETS AND VILLAGES—ROCK CHAPEL—ANCIENT SCULPTURE—HUMAN SACRIFICE—POPULATION AND ANCIENT HISTORY OF NUBIA—INGENIOUS SYSTEM OF IRRIGATION—WHITE EAGLE.

Tuesday, Jan. 15. *Ipskir in Nubia.*

CCLIX. WE rose very early, in the hope that, according to promise, the *reis* of the cataract would arrive, in order to begin with the day the ascent into Nubia. But these people seldom keep their promises, having no idea of the value of time. He, in fact, did not make his appearance: and, while we were waiting for him, half the population of *Es-Souan* seemed to crowd down to the beach; some with trifling antiquities for sale; others, who had nothing to sell, in search of presents; others with

camels for our luggage and asses for ourselves, in case we should desire to proceed by land. The luggage, according to custom, was sent forward ; but, being desirous of witnessing the passage of the cataracts, we determined to remain in the kandjia, until we should arrive at what is called “ the Gate,” where we might land, proceed a few yards over the rocks, and then reimbarc. The scene, on losing sight of the town, and entering the narrow channels into which the river is here divided by the prodigious masses of granite, which on all sides encumber its bed, is peculiarly magnificent ; far more so than when viewed from the island of Elephantine or the mountains of Es-Souan. Every moment, as we advanced, the grandeur of the spectacle augmented. Numbers of the rocky isles, which appear to extend in endless succession towards the south, consist of enormous blocks of granite, blackened by the water below, split into ragged pinnacles above by the sun, and thrown by some convulsion of nature into positions in which this kind of rock is seldom found. Into the clefts and interstices which diversify their surface, the Nile, during the inundation, has introduced the rich alluvial soil peculiar to Egypt ; and on these spots are date palms of stately growth, small level terraces of corn or lupines in flower, with acacia and mimosa trees ; while the more hardy tamarisk hangs waving from the smaller fissures of the cliffs. Between these islands, of various form, structure, dimensions, and aspect, the Nile, divided into innu-

merable tortuous channels, rushes along with extraordinary noise and velocity, in some places dashing in spray and foam over opposing rocks ; in others eddying round projecting promontories, its whole surface vexed with whirlpools. Almost every thing in Egypt has been exaggerated by the imagination of travellers, except the cataracts of *Es-Souan*, the magnificence and grandeur of which are beyond description.

CCLX. As we ascended the stream with a moderate breeze, the kandjia proceeded smoothly and delightfully, until we approached the falls, where the river, hemmed in by huge granite rocks, rushes over its narrow bed like a sluice, roaring, foaming, and dashing in tremendous sublimity. Our vessel, being an admirable sailer, cleared the minor rapids in a noble style ; but there were two other travellers in another bark behind, which, choosing a different channel, and frequently disappearing among the rocks, excited strong apprehensions for its safety. At length, however, all our attention was fixed upon our own position. Turning suddenly round the point of a small island, we discovered before us one of the most considerable of the falls, up which our course lay. Our captain, terrified at the appearance of the dashing waters, would now gladly have refunded the money he had received, to be permitted to return to Cairo from that spot. It was, however, too late ; for, while he was making these foolish offers, the

Nubian pilot, more courageous than the Arab, turned the kandjia's prow directly up the torrent, and we were, in a moment, in the midst of it ; upon which the *reis* and his father, an old man whose beard had grown grey upon the Nile, beholding the fury of the waves, and the rocks veiled on all sides by clouds of foam, while their bark reeled and trembled like a nut-shell, burst into tears, giving themselves up for lost ; in fact, our situation began to assume rather a serious aspect. The pilot complained bitterly of the negligence of the captain of the cataract, whose peculiar duty it is to attend with men and ropes at this most dangerous portion of the ascent. Having no inclination to imitate Cæsar, who swam with his Commentaries in his mouth, I threw my journal and pistols into the cabin, and stood prepared for the worst. Unfortunately the breeze, which seemed to have abated its strength, was too weak to force us up the current, if, indeed, any wind could have done so ; so that we hung midway up the fall, retained in our position by long poles thrust against the rocks. At length, however, the violence of the current began to prevail, and was about to hurl us back, though every nerve was strained to fix the quivering poles, and stay our course, when the Nubian pilot, undressing to his skin, and fastening the end of a rope about his neck, leaped into the whirling waters, and, by the most vigorous exertions, succeeded in reaching a rock. Success, however, still appeared exceedingly doubtful ; for the rope which he took with him was small,

and, had it broken, the kandjia would have been inevitably dashed to pieces. When the Nubian had made fast the rope round a block of granite, all hands quitted the poles, and, seizing the line, exerted themselves with the utmost vigour, until we were at length drawn up this rapid, and once more placed in smooth water. The other kandjia, by taking a different channel, ascended with less difficulty ; but, in making the shore, was dashed with so much violence against our boat, that one of the men, in endeavouring to ward it off, received a dangerous contusion, and was supposed at the time to have broken his arm. Here we landed, to await the coming of the reis of the cataracts. Crowds of Nubians, men and boys, having assembled upon the shore, to behold our ascent, but still more to exhibit their own courage and dexterity, were constantly talking and laughing, leaping like so many chamois from rock to rock, and offering for *five paras* to swim down the cataract. One of them, getting astride on a small log of wood, and pushing off from the shore, fell into the current, by the force of which he was hurried down like an arrow for a considerable distance. But he well knew how to sit his log ; and, availing himself dexterously of the counter-current, made a bold turn, and, regaining the command of the canoe, by paddling rapidly with his hands, reached the opposite shore in safety. Various were the contrivances resorted to by these ingenious lads to earn a few *paras*. One brought a small tortoise for sale ; another was busily searching

among the rocks for variegated pebbles; while a third endeavoured to excite our generosity by dint of agility and intrepidity.

CCLXI. At length, after much delay, the Arabs arrived, with a thousand excuses for coming too late; and, to make amends for this, seemed disposed to exert themselves vigorously in dragging the kandjias up the remaining fall. A cable being fastened to the mast, a number of natives, not less, perhaps, than seventy, at once putting their hands to the work, drew up the boats one after another, with great adroitness and facility. I now strolled over the rocks, admiring the magnificence of the scene, and by anticipation enjoying the pleasure of passing the limits of Egypt, and entering with the Nile into a new country, Ethiopia, the land of the Blacks, respecting which so many remarkable stories were current among the ancients. I was, moreover, impatient to be at *Phikæ*, the sacred island, in which the remains of Osiris repose, and which, in antiquity, no profane foot was permitted to tread. The whole vicinity of the cataracts is peopled with mysterious associations; and the sound of the dashing waters, mingled with the shouts of Nubians and Arabs, and repeated by the echoes of the mountains, appears, in a certain frame of mind, to augment their solemnity, and add greatly to the influence which they exercise over the imagination. Ideas of this kind, which owe their birth rather to mythology than to his-

tory, wholly occupied my fancy when I re-embarked upon the Nile, and sailed towards Philæ, between numerous diminutive isles, craggy, verdurous, or barren, which threw their long trembling shadows over its waters. So much of the pleasure which we experience on such occasions is referrible to the nature of our studies and the peculiar bent of our minds, that some may pass coolly and without emotion over spots, which, in more impassioned characters, excite the liveliest enthusiasm. On arriving at the village of *Birbé*, we re-shipped our baggage, and crossing over to Philæ, ran hastily through the principal ruins, the examination of which we reserved until our return. Here we found two English artists, Messrs. Hoskins and Jones, who, together with M. Gouri, a French architect, had pitched their tent among the ruins, which they were sketching and studying. They obligingly accompanied us to the temples, and afterwards invited us to dinner in their tent, in the patriarchal style; but the wind being fair, we resisted the temptation, and proceeding up the river, moored about night fall at *Ipshir*.

Wednesday, Jan. 16. *Tafa*.

CCLXII. Sailing early from this village, we arrived, about ten o'clock, at *Parembolé*. The fertile land, on either side of the river, is here exceedingly narrow; but every portion of it is brought into cultivation. The mountains, consisting of mere masses of naked granite, in many places approach the water's

edge ; while in other situations there are about three or four yards of cultivable soil, formed by the deposits of the river. To enlarge the extent of their fields, the industrious inhabitants construct long walls, or jetties, of large stones, running out at right angles with the banks to a considerable distance into the stream, narrowing its course, and allowing the mud, that quickly accumulates behind them, to harden into solid land, which is immediately brought into cultivation. I have observed a similar practice, on a smaller scale, upon the banks of the Rhone, in the Upper Valais ; where, in fact, much land might thus be gained, had the Valaisans half the industry and energy of the Nubians. The skill, neatness, and enterprise of these people, who, having for ages enjoyed more freedom, are superior in vigour and hardihood to the *Fellahs*, excited our admiration. The ground, in this part of the valley, was every where laid out and cultivated with superior art and industry, though exactly on the same plan as in Egypt ; and I also observed that the little canals conducting the water from the *sakias* to the fields were often raised upon small embankments of earth, about three feet in height, very neatly formed, and carefully kept in repair. The principal crops are wheat, barley, lupines, and a sort of kidney bean, now covered with a beautiful pale purple flower. In general, however, the corn seemed more backward than in Egypt ; though we passed one field of barley already in the ear. In the sands about Parembolé, were numbers of young palm trees recently planted, protected from the wind, the cattle,

&c., by a circular wall of loose stones or mud, raised to the height of two or three feet about the trees. The palm, in fact, seems here, as in Egypt, to constitute the principal riches of the peasant; immense quantities of dates are annually exported down the Nile; and, in passing the frontier, at *Birbé*, we observed prodigious heaps exposed to the sun, and surrounded by an enclosure of mat-work, ready to be shipped, or transported on camels to *Es-Souan*.

CCLXIII. The temple of Parembolé stands at no great distance from the river. Landing a little to the north, we proceeded towards it across the narrow fields of the Nubians, and the sands of the desert, in the midst of which it is situated. From the river it is approached by three propylæa, standing in a right line with the several doors which lead up the centre of the building to the sanctuary, whence the Nile is visible through this architectural vista. A wall of large rough stones forms a square round the temple and the propylæa, from each of which a lateral wall extends to this enclosure, dividing the whole area into a succession of courts. Each doorway is adorned with the winged globe. The pronaos is adorned with four columns, with varied capitals; the intercolumniations are encumbered with a mural skreen, and upon the walls the usual gods are portrayed. Harpocrates, the child of grief and lamentation, conceived by Isis, in some mysterious way, after the death of Osiris,—the circumstance respecting which he, probably, enjoins silence to the votaries of

his mother, — is here seen in his accustomed attitude, with his finger pointing to his lips ; and near it a group representing the consecration of a king, in which one of the Pharaohs, with a close helmet on his head, and dressed in the scanty mean costume which they affected, is depicted standing between two priests, who are pouring from slender elegant vases streams of yoni-lingams, crossing each other above the head, and falling to the ground on either side of the king's body. Close to this group, a man is offering incense in an Egyptian censer to *Aroeris Hierax* ; and elsewhere we find Isis standing upright, with a star over her head.

CCLXIV. In the chamber leading into the adytum, we found a small monolithic granite shrine, now broken ; in height about seven feet ; in breadth two and a half ; and the niche it contained may once have been occupied by an image of the god of the temple. On the base of the shrine two females are represented in a crouching attitude, binding what some have supposed to be a lotus, round the pillar of a table. The face of the monolith is adorned with pilasters, having rich fanciful capitals, and supporting a cornice on which the winged globe appears in the centre. A narrow band of hieroglyphics, much defaced, runs round the niche, within the pilasters. From the temple of Parembolé, which is but a small, mean structure, we returned to the boats, and continued our voyage ; and in the afternoon visited the ruins of *Kardassi*, deserving but little notice. Between

this place and *Tafa* there occurs a splendid reach of the river, scarcely inferior to any below *Es-Souan* ; where the broad stream, fringed on either side with verdure, and flowing between lofty mountains, appears to have regained all his majesty. Moored at *Tafa*.

Thursday, Jan. 17. *Kalabshi*.

CCLXV. Early in the morning we visited the ruins of *Taphis*, which are extensive ; immense walls and heaps of stone covering the ground in all directions. In the midst of this confused mass of fragments of shafts, cornices, entablatures, &c., are the remains of two small temples, of which the more southern contains but two erect columns ; the other, a square building, is in a state of high preservation, and has four elegant columns supporting the roof. The foliage, as usual, is varied in each capital. This edifice having now been transformed into a sheep-cote, we found the interior occupied by a ewe, which, for antiquity, might have been taken for the wife of the Theban Jupiter, who, at the request of Hercules, concealed his dignity in the form of a ram. Excepting the perfect state in which it is found, — the very cornice on the exterior being almost entire, — there is nothing remarkable in this small building, which was rather a chapel than a temple. The *Noubahs*, a people ignorant of Arabic, and exceedingly rude and uncivilised, had formerly erected their huts upon the roof ; but, the times being less disturbed, they had now abandoned those aërial dwellings, and

descended to *terra firma*. Both here and at *Kardassi*, they seemed disposed to behave insolently, and, through the ministry of our Nubian pilot, who was *doctus utriusque linguæ*, informed the Arabs, that they cared not a rush for the Pasha. The vast walls and substructions of Tafa, which in some places are of Cyclopean character, would appear never to have been completed ; but were evidently all intended for public buildings, nothing resembling the remains of private dwellings being any where observable. Yet the noble and opulent Egyptians dwelt in spacious houses of stone, with magnificent entrances, propylæa, and extensive gardens, which, though laid out, like those of France, in a quaint unimaginative style, seem to have been carefully cultivated, and planted with noble trees.

CCLXVI. A little to the south of *Taphis* we approach what are called the “Gates of Kalabshi.” The mountains on both sides, fluctuating in their course, bend inward, and impend in vast cliffs over the Nile, which is here greatly narrowed, and, in the time of the inundation, roughened with slight rapids.* Finding, on our return from the ruins, that there was no wind, while the rocks prevented all attempts at tracking, we strolled forth into the fields, which, however small, are exceedingly well cultivated. Se-

* Belzoni, however, who passed through these “gates” during high Nile, was informed by the natives that the navigation was dangerous only when the waters were low. But they were now low, and there existed neither danger nor rapids.

parating from my companions, who remained near the village, I wandered away among the rocks, and began to climb one of the loftiest and most pointed summits of the Libyan mountains. The ascent was exceedingly difficult, and not without danger, being obstructed at every ten paces by enormous blocks of granite and *rosso antico*, resting upon a bed of loose stones, which a touch would have put in motion, and sent thundering down into the river below. Among these tottering masses, therefore, I made my way with the greatest caution, as in many places they impended over my head; and, on looking down, could perceive far below, fragments of similar rocks, which, accidentally put in motion, possibly by the wind, had been dashed to splinters in their fall. Here and there small pieces of calcareous spar and rose-coloured granite sparkled in the sun, that poured down his fiery rays into the rocky hollows, whence they were reflected with renewed violence. Being encumbered with the heavy cloak worn on all occasions in these countries, it was some time before I succeeded in reaching the summit, which it is probable no European ever before ascended; but, when there, enjoyed, what I had long desired, a boundless prospect over the western desert, which, though sombre and monotonous, was singularly grand. The mountains, lofty near the river, gradually, as they recede from it, decrease in height, until, far in the distance, they seem to dwindle into mere undulations, scarcely roughening the surface of the waste. Their innumerable pinnacles, black, rugged, bare, and partly

involved in shadow, impart to the landscape an air of gloomy sublimity, the constant concomitant of great desolation and barrenness, which awaken an idea of death. But, perhaps, it is to the immensity of the wilderness, of which they form the outskirts, that they in a great measure owe the effect they produce on the imagination.

CCLXVII. Every where I could observe traces of the fury of the tropical rains, which deluge all these mountains in summer, and hurl down the wild dangerous ravines rocks of prodigious magnitude. Towards the east, the prospect is nearly the same, except that the dusky rocks rise, like so many isles, amid boundless expanses of fine yellow sand, drifted by the action of the wind into small beautiful waves, like those upon the sea-shore. Through this scene of utter sterility, the eye pursues with pleasure the course of the Nile, from the point where, far to the south, it emerges, as if springing out of the earth, from between two rocky ridges, to the equally distant point, on the way to Egypt, where it is again hidden from the view by similar hills, while its noble stream is edged throughout with two narrow borders of bright green, over which the hamlets and palm-groves of the *Noubahs* are thinly scattered. From one of these lofty pinacles, towering far above every thing around, I sought to obtain a glimpse of the temples of *Kalabshi*; but either they were masked by some other object, or their colour, resembling that of the sands in which they are situated, prevented my distinguish-

ing them. In the narrow channel of the river beneath were two or three small islets, partly covered with vegetation.

CCLXVIII. Being quite alone, my thoughts had perhaps wandered homeward, and time was slipping by unperceived. But I was at length roused by the sound of my companion's voice among the rocks below, calling aloud to me to descend, as the wind had freshened, and we might possibly reach *Kalabshi* in the course of the day. The breeze, however, was slight, scarcely sufficient to carry us through the "Gates," where the black perpendicular cliffs, viewed from the river, seemed doubly grand, more especially when, by the illusion arising from the shifting of the point of view, as the *kandjia* advanced before the wind, they were put into apparent motion, and appeared to be following each other in solemn procession down the stream. Having passed this strait, the valley widens, and cultivation again commences. In a short time we once more found ourselves becalmed, on a smooth sandy promontory on the eastern bank, where the Arabs, playful and thoughtless as children, immediately poured forth upon the beach, and began to amuse themselves with their usual sports. We also landed, and, in default of better employment, reclined upon the sand, watching the ripple of the waves, and the motions of the birds upon their surface. The mind, on such occasions as this, seems to derive pleasure out of nothing. There was no new or remarkable feature in the scene. It

was not the first time we had lain down upon the sand, or gazed idly at the river, or enjoyed the delightful warmth of the sun : yet that small level promontory, the pipes we smoked, and the coffee we drank there, with the lovely serenity of the blue stream, the glittering plumage of the birds, and the splendour of the sky, took a much deeper hold upon my memory than objects far more striking.

CCLXIX. The calm was not of long continuance, a light breeze soon springing up, by the aid of which we were enabled, in a few hours, to reach *Kalabshi*. As we approach this town,—the *Talmis* of the ancients,—the eastern mountains present, for a considerable distance, the appearance of a vast Cyclopean wall, consisting of huge loose masses piled irregularly upon each other. On arriving at *Kalabshi*, we immediately landed, and walked between copses of mimosa, and over fields of lupins, to the great temple, formerly approached from the river by a flight of steps, now destroyed or buried in mud, though the parapets remain. Having ascended these, we proceeded over a paved area to a second flight of steps, leading to the summit of a broad causeway, one hundred and forty feet in length, extending to the foot of the magnificent terrace on which the temple is erected. On either side of the causeway runs a low wall, along the centre of which a broad band of brass, or some other metal, formerly extended, the groove into which it was received still existing un-

injured. A third flight of steps, seventeen in number, and about fourteen inches broad, ascends to the terrace, forty feet in breadth, which extends along the whole front of the propylon.

CCLXX. This propylon, one hundred and twelve feet in length, sixty in height, and twenty in thickness, having never been completed, has the appearance of a naked wall; and from the poverty and meanness of the effect it produces, we may discover the taste and judgment of the Egyptians in covering the exterior of their edifices with bas reliefs. The doorway, both within and without, is ornamented with frieze, moulding, and cornice, on which the usual figures are sculptured. Passing under this lofty gateway, we enter the dromos, now so completely encumbered with fragments of broken columns, cornices, entablatures, and vast blocks of loose stones, that it is extremely difficult to traverse. It was formerly surrounded by a peristyle, of which one column only is now standing. The pronaos is adorned with twelve columns, and the intercolumniations, as usual, are closed in front by a mural skreen, reaching half-way up the shaft. The foliage of the capitals consists, in some cases, of a series or cluster of the fan-like leaves of the doum tree, elegantly arranged; in others, of vine leaves, surmounted by vine tendrils and bunches of grapes.

CCLXXI. On entering the pronaos, we observe the façade of the ancient fane, surrounded with

a fine bold moulding, enchased in a frame-work of modern masonry, and forming the cella of the present edifice. The space enclosed within this moulding is covered with sculptured figures, among which the most remarkable is the representation of a human sacrifice ; where the victim, whose whole clothing consists of a scanty waist-cloth, is on his knees, with his hands tied behind his back. Behind him stands a priest with lofty mitre, who, with one hand, holds him by the long hair, while in the other he brandishes a small axe, ready to strike off his head. This horrid scene takes place in the presence of Osiris Hierax, who is seated on his throne, enjoining and enjoying the spectacle. The other figures are precisely the same as are represented on other Egyptian edifices, except that they are perhaps less stiff and angular than ordinary. The ceiling is blue, and sprinkled thickly with stars, partly black, and partly white, though originally it is probable they were gilded. Among the female figures on the walls of the adytum, there is one whose black hair is twisted into innumerable small tresses, falling perpendicularly all round the head, exactly like those of the Nubian women of the present day. These tresses are bound close by a narrow fillet, which, passing round the head, is tied behind ; and a small serpent, issuing from among the curls, seems darting forwards over the forehead. The petticoat-like garment, in which the majority of the figures on the temple are clothed, projects forward in a sharp point ; and on this some-

thing like a fan is painted in bright colours, the handle towards the extremity, and the irradiations spreading over the whole front of the garment.

CCLXXII. The adytum is lighted by four small horizontal loop-holes, diverging inward ; and at its south-eastern corner is a square aperture, one foot nine inches broad by eighteen inches high, leading into two dark chambers of small dimensions, built one behind the other, in the thickness of the wall. A similar aperture leads from the first into the second cell, and both contain a solid block of stone, exactly fitting the apertures, and intended to close them, when, for some purpose or another, the existence of the apartments was to be concealed. I suspect that the whole contrivance was connected with the system of oracles. Possibly a priest was concealed in these dark cells, whose voice, seeming to issue from the solid wall, might, to the wise Egyptians, appear to be the voice of a god. A few feet below the entrance is a very narrow doorway, leading from the adytum into the adjoining apartment, through which the sacred jugglers, when it suited their purposes, might steal in or out. Beneath the staircase ascending to the roof are two other dark chambers, but what their use may have been is unknown.

CCLXXIII. Upon more narrowly examining the painted sculptures adorning the interior, we discovered a group unlike any thing elsewhere observed ; apparently representing a company of female *Psylli*,

exhibiting the power of charms and music over the serpent race. The first maiden bears upon her head a small flat basket, about six inches in diameter, from the centre of which arise three full-blown lotuses, the middle one upright, the others bending outward. Below these, on either side, is the same flower in the bud, with the stem broken, and the lotus drooping over the edge of the basket. Her next companion, standing a little in advance, carries in her hand three small cones, resembling cypress trees, with a flower depending from the central one, and from the stems of the others a cord with small bells; while the third, the principal enchantress, is engaged in shaking a serpent out of a phial upon a kind of altar piled with fruit; and, beside it, on the ground, is a small vase, out of which another serpent appears to be rising at the "voice of the charmer."

Friday, Jan. 18. *Merwaou.*

CCLXXIV. Not having completed our examination of the temples, we remained all night at *Kalabshi*, and renewed our investigations in the morning. Soon after our arrival, a party of Nubian women and girls collected together on the sunny terrace, in front of the propylon, some of them wishing to sell us the little apron of thongs, constituting their only covering, others their brazen armlets and necklaces of beads. Both women and girls behaved with that modest simplicity which, in all countries, is the attribute of unsophisticated woman. Their dress and ornaments were in the most primitive style of savage

costume : broad armlets of buffalo's horn, or brass, or metallic beads, connected together with inter-twisted thongs ; a small apron of thongs, about nine inches long in front, and shorter at the left side, suspended on a narrow belt passing round the loins ; and ornamented with beautiful small white shells, intermingled with red and blue beads. This was the only garment of young unmarried girls. The remainder of their bodies, which are of a dark copper colour, with a tinge of red, seemed to be well oiled, and looked smooth and soft. Their hair was twisted into innumerable small straight tresses, matted together with mutton suet, or castor oil, which, melting in the sun, dripped down upon their shoulders and bosom, exhaling so foetid an odour that it was with difficulty we could stand near them. Prior, describing, in his lively way, another African race, observes with no less truth than wit, that, —

“ Before you see, you smell your toast,
And sweetest she who stinks the most.”

Many of them wore large necklaces of brown wood or ebony beads, intermingled with others of red or blue glass. From their ears, and various parts of their hair, heavy brass ornaments were suspended ; and one woman wore the nose ring so much affected by the females of Hindoostan.

CCLXXV. My fellow-traveller wishing to take a specimen of Nubian costume to Europe, endeavoured, at *Tafa*, to purchase one of their thong aprons. A

modest little girl, understanding his wish, immediately slipped behind a wall, where she undressed, and handed forth her garment from thence ; but, as for some reason or another it was not purchased, she quickly reappeared with it among her companions. A woman, who happened to be present, sold her daughter's apron, and giving her a small cloth to replace it, commanded her to withdraw and undress ; but the poor girl, loth to part with the only article of finery she possessed in the world, retired sorrowfully, and sitting down at a little distance upon a stone, sobbed aloud ; not reflecting that with the piastres her mother had received for it, a dozen new ones might perhaps be purchased. This apron had been so saturated with fat and oil, that it was found impossible to suffer it to remain in the cabin, and it was consequently suspended on the mast, like the unclean ghosts in Virgil, to be purified by the wind. In general, the armlets worn by the Nubian women would seem to be put on while they are very young, so that, when grown up, it is sometimes impossible to take them off, though their arms and hands are delicately small. Indeed, it was necessary to cut through, with a penknife, the one I here purchased, consisting of thong and metal. The brass armlets are open at the side, and resemble, when off the arm, the thin crescent of the new moon. The married women wear a sort of loose garment, which, like that of the Hindoos, leaves one shoulder bare, and descends below the knee. Sometimes, in very hot weather, a

corner of this garment is thrown over the head, as a defence against the sun ; though the face is always left uncovered. Nearly all were desirous of selling some portion of their dress or ornaments, requiring what was considered a good price. The boys, who, being stark naked, had no personal ornaments to dispose of, brought us some small antiquities, such as broken idols, coins of copper and bronze, or fragments of sculpture.

CCLXXVI. In all these villages there is no bread to be obtained. Milk and butter, however, are generally found ; but these, together with eggs, — when they can be procured, — are considerably dearer than in Egypt. The extraordinary inquisitiveness and curiosity remarked by Burckhardt among the Nubians, seem to have been the effect of the peculiar circumstances of those times, when the appearance of a Mamalook or Turkish army was daily apprehended, rather than as forming any part of their national character ; for I could discover in them no traces of those qualities. They appear, at present, to entertain no hopes of a political change, though the slightest reverses occurring to Mohammed Ali, would again, I make no doubt, awaken their ancient love of anarchical independence. If we assert, with Burckhardt, that the villages of the Nubians are built of stone, a wrong idea of them will certainly be conveyed ; yet I scarcely know what other terms to employ. The huts of which they consist, are, in

many cases, merely so many low circular walls of small loose stones, piled rudely upon each other, and covered above with dhourra stalks ; they are so frail, that the smallest force would be sufficient to destroy them. Twelve or thirteen of these huts, often fewer, huddled together among heaps of ancient ruins, or on the shingly slope of the mountains, constitute a village, or hamlet, which might be easily passed without notice, particularly in the dawn or twilight, being exactly of the same hue as the surrounding rocks.

CCLXVII. About half a mile to the north of the large temple, proceeding along the foot of the mountain, over the ruins of the ancient city, at some height above the level of the plain, is a small hypogeum, approached by a narrow dromos, or area, likewise excavated in the rock. On the side walls, which are neither long nor lofty, are various groups of sculpture, resembling in execution those on the propylon of the temple of Luxor. Burckhardt, notwithstanding the natural coolness of his judgment, appears to have spoken much too favourably of these performances, which, though perhaps less stiff and cramped than ordinary, would probably receive but little praise from an able artist or enlightened connoisseur. The scenes represented on our cups and saucers, translated into verbal description, and suppressing all disparaging epithets, might be made to appear pictures of no trifling merit. It is the same with these Nubian master-pieces, which, though I have no

intention to place them on a level with the fictile landscapes above alluded to, are in reality deserving of very little praise.

CCLXXVIII. On the left-hand wall, close to the entrance, are depicted two or three trees, which, by amplification, may be denominated a grove. Though less unlike nature than is usual in Egyptian sculpture, their fruit more nearly resembles a large gourd than any thing that ever grew on a tree ; and the naked figures beneath them are not unlike the worsted specimens of humanity which young ladies delight to work upon their samplers. Proceeding inward, we next encounter two war-chariots, in full career, bearing several combatants into the battle. Farther on are negroes, carrying something which has been denominated elephants' teeth, and driving before them buffaloes, giraffes, and other animals, into the presence of a god, who seems to be Osiris, seated on a throne, and holding towards them the Kteis-Phallus and the Thyrsus of Bacchus. The fable,—for it seems to be nothing more than a representation of the fabulous expeditions of Osiris,—is continued on the right-hand, or northern wall, where we again find the god upon his throne, with various captives on their knees before him. Among these suppliant figures, is one about to be sacrificed, who with uplifted hands implores the un pitying god for mercy ; while a priest, barbarously grasping the victim by the hair, flourishes, like an executioner, the weapon with which

he is ready to decapitate him. From this we pass on to the victor in his rapid car, to another human sacrifice, and the confusion and slaughter of a battle-field. It is difficult to comprehend what travellers mean by the "group of Briareus," which occurs, they say, both here and elsewhere among the sculptures of the Egyptians. Those old barbarians, in the spirit of Caligula, seem to have wished that all their enemies had but one neck, which they might sever at a blow; and this ferocious sentiment they have embodied on the walls of their temples, where we find a cluster of human beings, to the number, sometimes, of thirty, held together by the hair, ready to be immolated by their sanguinary conquerors. Briareus, the giant of classical mythology, had fifty heads and one hundred hands. But the polymorphous groups beheld on the temples of Egypt, far from being of gigantic proportions, are usually represented infinitely more diminutive than their destroyers, who were ignorant that by this childish ebullition of vanity they in reality disparaged their own prowess; for where is the merit of the strong subduing the weak?

CCLXXIX. The façade of the chapel is neat. Three doorways, the central one higher than the others, lead into the first apartment, and are each surmounted by an arch cut in the rock. The whole of the front is covered with sculpture and hieroglyphics. In the back wall of the principal chamber, which is thirty-five feet in length by fourteen in

breadth, are two niches, one on either side, containing three figures in alto rilievo — Isis, Osiris, and Ammon. Two massive fluted columns, adorned with four bands of hieroglyphics, running perpendicularly from the plinth to the base, support a large cross beam, on which the roof appears to rest. The ceiling is covered with winged globes, figures of geese, and other sacred animals, with the Kteis-Phallus, &c., all once painted in brilliant colours, now faded. In the adytum we find Osiris on his throne, represented of an azure hue, with a priest burning incense, and pouring out a libation, before him. The niche also is occupied by a single figure, now mutilated, probably that of Osiris, the popular divinity.

CCLXXX. From this chapel, called by the natives *Dar-el-Waly* *, we returned to the river, and continued our voyage. The narrow belt of cultivation continues on both sides; but the scantiness of fertile land, which could never, in this part of the valley, have been much more extensive than at present, tends, I imagine, to prove that the numerous temples found in Nubia could at no period have been needed by the inhabitants. They were, therefore, constructed, on the conquest of the country, by the Egyptians, whose priests, like the Brahmins in the Dekkan, sought to conciliate or subdue the minds of the natives by the voluptuous allurements or terrors of

* According to Burckhardt, for, from the Nubians with whom we conversed, nothing could be learned respecting it.

their religion. Another idea is suggested by an examination of the Nubian portion of the valley of the Nile. Egypt, we know, was subdued, and governed, during many years, by a Nubian chief. The whole population of this kingdom, from *Es-Souan* to *Mahass*,—an extent of five hundred miles,—has, with apparent fairness, been estimated at one hundred thousand souls: suppose that in antiquity they amounted to double or treble this number; and then reflect upon the military power of a kingdom which could be conquered and held in subjection by such a handful of men, and finally owe its deliverance only to the artifices of the priesthood. Much of the prejudice which still possesses us respecting the political and military greatness of the ancient Egyptians, might, perhaps, be removed by an attentive examination of their history, an enquiry foreign, however, to the nature of the present work, merely professing to recount what I saw, with the reflections thereby suggested. Returning from the consideration of antiquity, which, perhaps, occupies too much the attention of travellers, we every day saw fresh proofs of the industrious character of the present inhabitants. The perseverance they exhibit in watering their fields, when prevented by poverty from erecting a *sakia*, is exemplary. The height of the bank above the level of the Nile—in some places not less than thirty-five feet—rendering it impossible to raise water, in the ordinary way, by the lever and basket, they construct in the sloping bank five small reservoirs, placed the one above the other, into which the water

is successively raised by an equal number of rude hydraulic machines. Each of these levers is worked by a man, and the water, when it has reached the summit, is distributed over the land by small canals of the neatest construction. On the field west of the river, we here observed a greater number than usual of trees, among which the Egyptian sycamore, the doum and date palms, were the most numerous. The moles thrown out into the river for the purpose of gaining soil, are injurious to navigation; for, being often on both sides, they too greatly narrow the channel, creating dangerous currents and eddies. On the west bank we saw, in the afternoon, a fine white eagle perched upon a rock. The hamlets are here very numerous, standing, as in Egypt, in small palm groves, and single date trees are scattered over the fields. A sheikh's tomb, of a shining white appearance, crested the summit of a neighbouring eminence. The channel of the river is diversified by several islands.

CHAPTER XVI.

TEMPLE OF DANDOOR — THE SILK TREE — APPLES OF SODOM —
 PERFUMED ATMOSPHERE — NUBIAN ARMS — ROCK TEMPLE OF
 GYRSHE — COLOSSAL STATUES — ARAB LOCK AND KEY — FEUDS
 OF THE GODS — THEORY OF THE SUBLIME — DOUBLE SHADOWS —
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Saturday, Jan. 19. *Gherf Hussein.*

CCLXXXI. CONTINUING our voyage, we arrived, in the course of the morning, at *Dandoor*. The temple, to visit which the traveller pauses at this place, stands on the western bank, near the foot of a rocky hill, at a short distance from the river, and is surrounded by extensive heaps of hewn stone, showing that other buildings formerly existed there. In front of the propylon are the remains of a large court wall, round which, — from its appearance at the top, where the stones were formerly connected by clumps of metal, — I conjecture a peristyle, or colonnade, originally extended, affording to the priests an agreeable shady walk. There being no opening towards the river, it must have been entered by side doors.

The propylon is lofty and narrow, but was certainly not connected laterally with the great court wall. It has the ordinary ornaments; indeed, there is nothing remarkable in the façade of the temple. The architrave of the pronaos is supported by two columns, with lotus capitals and small plinths, rudely adorned with sculpture; and the intercolumniations are built up half way. Two small side doors lead into the pronaos, one on the north, close to the columns; another on the south, close to the cella. Among the sculptures we could nowhere discover the figure presenting two doves to Osiris, mentioned by Burckhardt; and that of Harpocrates (or *Horus*, as he terms it), with his finger pointing to his lips, appeared to us no way remarkable*; indeed Monro considered it even more stiff than ordinary. In the sekos there is no sculpture of any kind, excepting on the frieze surrounding the doorways; but, in the adytum, opposite the entrance, there is a kind of tablet, on which a figure in *alto rilievo*, and numerous hieroglyphics, were once visible. Their remains still exist; yet this is supposed to have been originally a

* The conjectures and reasonings of Burckhardt on sculpture and architecture should, in general, be allowed but little weight. The temple of Dakke seemed to him superior in many respects to that of Philæ; and in speaking of this edifice of Dandoor, he says, "The temple is, in general, extremely well built, and the sculptures are of the best times, though I conceive it to be *posterior in date* to the temple at Philæ, from a visible decline both in the architecture and sculpture." The acumen which enabled him at the same time to discover that the sculptures were "of the best times," notwithstanding the "visible decline" observable in them, is somewhat overstrained; yet it must not be forgotten that it is to him we owe the first notice of many of these edifices.

doorway leading into a chamber behind, where, it appears to me, no chamber could ever have existed. The exterior walls are adorned with the figures of the popular gods. On the northern side, however, the sculptures were never completed ; and, indeed, the whole temple appears to exhibit marks of haste, imperfection, and a declining taste ; which, with few exceptions, may be said of all the temples of Nubia, the whole of them being of more modern date than those of Egypt.

CCLXXXII. Returning to the river, we continued our walk along the shore, where we saw the peasants watering their wheat-fields with the *sakia* ; a much less laborious contrivance than the one mentioned above. The whole breadth of the cultivated country does not, in this part, exceed seventy or eighty yards, beyond which the rocks and sands of the desert commence. Here we observed numerous specimens of the *Ashey*r, or “ silk tree,” bearing a large fruit like a love apple, with a rind very thin and easily broken ; the interior of which, in its unripe state, is filled with a juice white and thick as buffalo’s milk, but, when ripe, with a fine, soft substance, white and shining, like flos silk. These beautiful filaments, when perfectly dry, the Nubians use as tinder, and the Bedouins twist into matches. In the hands of an ingenious people they might, perhaps, be woven into fabrics more lustrous and delicate than the spoils of the silk-worm ; and, for the purpose of making the experiment, I collected a small quantity to be carried

with me to Europe. Nothing can be more beautiful than the fruit of this tree : in size greatly exceeding an orange, and of a soft green colour, tinged on the sunny side with a ruddy blush, and covered with a hoary down and a bloom resembling that of the peach, it hangs among the pale foliage, tempting the eye from afar. Yet frequently, while all its external loveliness remains, it is found, when broken, to contain nothing but dust and ashes. May not this, therefore, since the tree abounds in the vicinity of the Dead Sea, be the celebrated “ apple of Sodom ? ” *

* Describing the shores of the Dead Sea, with their ruins, barrenness, and volcanic character, Tacitus observes, “ cuncta sponte edita, aut manu sata, sive herba tenuis aut flore, seu solitam in speciem adolevere, atra et inania velut in cinerem vanescunt.” — *Hist.* l. v. c. 7. Upon which M. Burnouf has the following note : — “ Cymodocée, tourmentée d’une soif dévorante, cueille sur un arbrisseau un fruit semblable à un citron doré ; mais lorsqu’elle le porte à sa bouche, elle le trouve rempli d’une cendre amère et calcinée.” — *Martyrs*, liv. 19. D’abord Tacite, sans doute d’après Josèphe, généralise une observation que tous les voyageurs appliquent à un seul végétal, fameux sous le nom d’arbre de Sodome. Quelques-uns révoquent en doute l’existence de cet arbre, et disent que ce prétendu fruit n’est qu’une image poétique de nos fausses joies. Un autre décrit l’arbuste, qui, selon lui, ressemble à une aubépine, et dont le fruit est une petite pomme d’une belle couleur. Hasselquist prétend que ce n’est ni un arbre ni un arbuste, mais le *solanum melongena* de Linné (l’aubergine), dont le fruit est quelquefois rempli de poussière, mais seulement quand il a été attaqué par l’insecte nommé *tenthredo*. Le voyageur moderne Seetzen dit avoir vu, sur un arbre pareil au figuier, des fruits ressemblant à la grenade, et remplis d’une espèce de coton ; il pense que ce pourraient bien être là les fameuses pommes de Sodome. Enfin M. de Châteaubriand lui-même croit avoir trouvé, vers l’embouchure du Jourdain, le fruit tant cherché. “ Il est tout-à-fait semblable en couleur et en forme au petit limon d’Egypte. Lorsque ce fruit n’est pas encore mûr, il est enflé d’une sève corrosive et salée ; quand il est desséché, il donne une semence noirâtre, qu’on peut comparer à des cendres, et dont le goût ressemble à un poivre amer.”

CCLXXXIII. Here also we observed, on various parts of the narrow plain, scattered tufts of the *Senna* plant, with its light green leaf, and small delicate yellow flowers. The *cucumis colocynthis*, which produces the coloquintida, or bitter apple, likewise grew plentifully along the paths. It is a handsome prickly creeper, of the gourd kind, not unlike the cucumber plant, and, having nothing to climb upon, spreads itself over the fields. Its fruit is about the size of an orange, but rounder, and green as a melon ; and, when ripe, full of brown seeds. The Arabs have discovered its medicinal virtues, but their mode of using it is singular : taking the fruit, while unripe, and scooping out the pulp and seeds, they fill the rind with milk, which is allowed to remain in it all night. In the morning they swallow this potion ; which they say, operates as a powerful aperient. During our walk, we observed, while proceeding through a thicket near the river, that the air was impregnated with a faint but exquisite perfume, the cause of which we in vain sought to discover. There was a small myrtle-leafed tree, growing in the midst of several other unknown shrubs, from which we at first supposed it to proceed ; but whose leaves, on being pressed, yielded no perceptible scent. Perhaps the date palm here already begins to feel the influence of spring, and diffuses its genial perfume through the atmosphere.*

* On this, and many other occasions, I regretted my ignorance of botany ; a science which, without interfering with my other pursuits, would have greatly enhanced the pleasures of the journey.

CCLXXXIV. In the neighbourhood of this thicket we were joined by one of the Pasha's soldiers, an Arab from Egypt ; who, being here in a kind of exile, seemed to regard us with some degree of pleasure, as awakening associations of home. His brother, while engaged in impressing men for the army, a little higher up the river, had seized on a peasant, who immediately afterwards succeeded in effecting his escape. Not content, however, with this, he for several hours followed the soldier at a distance, and, coming up with him, soon after night-fall, wounded him deeply in several places, particularly in the breast ; where, according to our informant's description, one of the gashes was as long as the palm of the hand. The Nubian peasantry, it should be remarked, all wear a short crooked dagger, suspended in a red leather sheath on the left arm above the elbow, where it is concealed by their garment. In sudden brawls, to revenge a recent insult, or long-remembered injury, these are the weapons employed ; but in public feuds, when village rises against village, and tribe against tribe, they make use of a broad straight sword, or spear, with round or oblong bucklers, manufactured from the crocodile's skin, or the hide of the hippopotamus. The Arab followed us to our boat, begging a plaister for his brother's wound ; but, while I was preparing it, entered a neighbouring field, to plunder a poor woman of her half-ripe lupines. At our desire, he immediately desisted ; but such are, perhaps, the causes of much of the ill-blood which

exists in Nubia between the soldiers and the natives. The fields, in this part of the valley, are covered with barley in full ear, in many places fast turning yellow; so that the first harvest, I imagine, will commence in a few weeks.

CCLXXXV. We again landed, near *Gyrshé*, where an ancient rock temple, in the face of the mountain, near the summit, constitutes the only object of attraction. An old Nubian, bearing in his hand a burning rope's end, and another with a long spear, met us at the foot of the hills; and assuming, without further ceremony, the office of guides, marched before us to the temple. On arriving at the entrance, we observed that an artificial terrace, or platform, had originally extended to a considerable distance in front of the sekos, forming the foundation of the portico; which, from its width, and the absence of all appearance of columns in the centre, would seem to have been hypæthral. On either side of the portico are four massive square pillars, having as many colossal statues of Osiris attached to them in front, whose features are flat and mild, exhibiting a dash of the negro. The head is covered by a low flat cap, with large flaps depending from the sides. An immense square beard adorns the chin. The left hand hangs idly by the side; but the right, holding the crosier and flagellum, is placed upon his breast. He wears about his loins a small apron, not from decorum, since the phallus is represented on it, but mystically to indicate, perhaps, the injury inflicted on

his corpse by Typhon. On the hem of this garment is a row of seven hooded-serpents, with distended neck, and head projecting forward, and surmounted by a globe. The rock, hewn into the form of a wall, anciently extended, behind these pillars, to the front of the portico ; which seems to have been surrounded by a peristyle. The front columns, two only of which now remain, were round. On either side, in a niche cut in the rock, at the extremity of the peristyle, were three figures, probably those of the Egyptian triad, Isis, Osiris, and Horus ; but they are now so defaced, that nothing certain can be predicated concerning them.

CCLXXXVI. On entering the sekos, we observe six other colossal figures, three on either hand, standing on lofty square pedestals, with their backs resting against an equal number of square columns. Excepting the features, which are not quite so flat, they exactly resemble their clumsy brethren on the outside, having like them the aprons, the diminutive phallus, the uræi on the hem, &c. In the side walls, behind these pillars, on the right and left, are three niches, with three figures in each ; apparently Isis, Osiris, and Horus ; though this last deity, in some cases, seems misshapen enough to be mistaken for Typhon. Each of these gods holds in both hands a staff, which, extending from the chin to the feet, terminates below in something like a horse-shoe, with the opening downward. In several of these niches Isis appears to be *enceinte*, and has the female countenance ; while in

others she has the face of a lioness. Proceeding into the second chamber, the roof of which appears to be supported by two massive pillars, one on either side, we observed, on the north and south, two lateral apartments ; at the extremity of which there was a stone divan, about three feet in height, and four in depth, extending the whole breadth of the room. Returning into the second great chamber, we found, towards the west, three doorways, the central one leading into the adytum, the others into small dark apartments running parallel with it. In the entrance to that on the right, I observed the holes in which the pivots of the door, probably of stone, turned ; and, about half-way up the lintel, an aperture in the side, into which the bolt was received.

CCLXXXVII. From observations made both in Egypt and Nubia, I imagine the present not uningenious lock and key, used by the Arabs, when they have any property to secure, is precisely the same as that anciently in fashion among the Egyptians. It consists of a large wooden bolt, that, being thrust forward, passes over a kind of catch-spring, which prevents its return. The door can therefore be locked without the key, which consists of a straight piece of wood, about six inches in length, and half an inch square,¹ containing, in one of its sides, near the extremity, four or five iron teeth, about half an inch in length, placed in an irregular manner. These, when the key is passed under, and

pressed against the bolt, enter as many small holes, and, by thrusting back the catch-spring, enable the bolt to be easily withdrawn. From the holes found in the doorways of the temples, precisely such as would be required by a fastening of this kind, it seems not unreasonable to infer that the apparatus formerly made use of in these countries to secure doors, differed little from that now employed.

CCLXXXVIII. In the back wall of the adytum is a large niche, or rather, recess, containing the figures of four gods, Isis, Osiris, Horus, and Typhon. Could we suppose the worshippers of these different gods to have been originally at peace with each other, and afterwards, in process of time, split into persecuting and hostile sects, and the feuds of Osiris and Typhon merely those of their votaries, we might then imagine this ancient hypogeum to have been excavated before that schism took place, and comprehend how adverse divinities are here found side by side, as if receiving adoration from the same persons. Indeed, the mythological legend informs us, that Osiris and Typhon were brethren, who at first, and for some time, lived together in harmony; from which, in an historical explanation of the mythus, an inference may be drawn favourable to the above conjecture. But I abstain from pursuing these speculations: the interpretations of the Osirian fable, given by others, are already but too numerous, more especially as nothing satisfactory, or even plausible, has hitherto been imagined.

CCLXXXIX. The details and general aspect of this structure, which spontaneously suggest the idea of a rude and primitive simplicity, would certainly lead me, were I disposed to indulge in conjecture, to consider it more ancient than any other Egyptian or Nubian rock temple. In conception, plan, and sculptured ornaments, it bears a considerable resemblance to the caves of Karli, Elephanta, Ellora, and other hypogea of the Dekkan, formed by superstition in remote ages, when man, pious, but ignorant, sought to draw upon himself the benevolence of the gods by the care and labour he bestowed upon their shrines. Here, more, perhaps, than anywhere else, we discover the means resorted to by the Egyptians to embody their notions of the sublime; including none of those light and airy proportions, by which matter, mounting upwards, like fire, appears to be spiritualised and warmed into thought. Grace, attitude, action, impassioned expression, are wanting. Neither the architecture nor the sculpture ever carries our fancy upwards to Olympian halls, or god-like bowers, or entertains it, amid sunny skies or golden clouds, with visions of ideal beauty. There is an air of grandeur; but it is the grandeur of a gnome. Every thing we beheld is of the earth, earthy; suggesting ideas of strength, mass, solidity, duration, and brute matter acting blindly without a soul; the sublimity, in short, of pantheism, if sublimity can exist independently of all reference to spirituality, and that eternal intelligence which shifts and diversifies around us the manifold shows of this world.

Sunday, Jan. 20. *Dakke.*

CCXC. Quitting, early in the morning, *Gherf Hussein*, where we had moored the preceding night, we landed on the western bank, and for some time proceeded close along the edge of the water, where the whole breadth of the cultivated land could not have exceeded three or four yards. The bank consists of a series of narrow terraces, rising behind each other; and all these were now covered with lupines in flower, or with a sort of French bean, which, creeping over a hedge of stunted mimosas, forming the line of separation between the sands and the valley, enlivened the whole shore with its beautiful purple blossoms. Travelling slowly along, admiring the richness of this narrow slip of vegetation, we were struck by a curious appearance, perfectly new to us both: the sun shining in tropical brightness, our shadows fell beside us, strongly defined upon the ground; but far aloft, upon the mimosa hedge, not less than thirty feet above the river, were two other shadows, faint but distinct, moving as we moved, though they seemed to proceed from some invisible bodies over our heads. For a moment the cause did not present itself; but on turning round, and regarding the Nile, we discovered that the image of the sun, brightly reflected from its glassy surface, and shining upon our bodies like a second sun, produced the double shadows which had at first puzzled us.

CCXCI. Through a break in the mimosa hedge, we climbed up the bank, and emerged into the desert, where the view which presented itself exhibited peculiar beauty. The elements of the picturesque may elsewhere be more strikingly combined, producing more softness, more variety, more grandeur; yet I have seldom beheld a more poetical or delightful landscape. Perhaps, if rigidly investigated, the reason of this might be discovered in causes independent of the combination of the physical objects around. It was the nearest approach I had hitherto beheld to a land wholly uninhabited, to which we involuntarily attach ideas of perfect freedom, tranquillity, and unsophisticated enjoyment. Nothing, we imagine, is there found to interrupt the current of our will, nature herself, upon whose mysterious bosom we sport and flutter like moths, appearing to be subjected to our dominion; and the calm and sunshine, generally prevailing in those latitudes, delude us into the persuasion that in such scenes our passions would also be still, and permit us serenely to taste the unmingled sweets which complete retirement and solitude appear to offer.

CCXCII. Whatever may be thought of this fanciful hypothesis, the scene that occasioned the recollection of it was worthy of admiration. But in its simplicity consisted, perhaps, its principal charm, every thing being presented to the eye in vast unbroken masses. On one hand, the interminable surface of the desert, covered with golden sands,

swelling into soft undulations at the foot or on the steep slope of lofty pink or rose-coloured rocks, or expanding into vast level plains, smooth as untrodden snow; on the other, the placid blue river, meandering between dark rocks and glittering sands, and bordered with narrow green fields, copses, or tufted groves, marking the site of distant hamlets; and extended over all a tropic sky, glowing in fiery brightness. But the charm of the landscape is not translatable into words. How, indeed, can we represent, with the pale colours of language, the rich harmony, the majesty, the art, the splendour, and, if we may dare so to say, the *taste*, with which nature has thrown together its various elements, and taught them, as it were, to express at once, by the vast desert and fertilising river, the power and bounty of the Creator? In fact, I felt that there was a moral, a religious beauty in the scene, a loveliness which, elevating the mind, directed it towards the fountain of all beauty and all perfection; and this effect, imperceptibly, perhaps, to ourselves, may be the source of the enthusiastic delight inspired by the contemplation of external nature.

CCXCIII. In the heavy sands, through which we toiled with difficulty, we observed the footmarks and dung of animals, such as camels and gazelles; and proceeding some distance along the river, at length turned aside towards the right, and ascended the rocky ridge, in this part of the valley running parallel with the course of the stream. Travellers

in Nubia rarely quit their boats, except for the purpose of visiting the several ruins, or, if they perform any portion of the journey by land, never deviate from the camel-track, generally found close to the Nile; which accounts for no mention being made in any of the works recently published of the numerous black conical mountains we now discovered in the western desert, presenting from a distance the appearance of so many volcanoes, which had burned long, and been gradually extinguished. Many were low and inconsiderable, but the peaks of the principal ones seemed to fall very little short of those of Vesuvius, in their elevation above the level of the sea. Several of the more remarkable lying to the south of our position, we returned to the kandjia, with the design of landing when we should have arrived opposite to them.

CCXCIV. Accordingly, on drawing near *Dak-ke*, we went on shore with Suleiman, armed as usual. The sandy plain lying between us and the mountains, though roughened by many inequalities, appeared at a distance level as the sea. About half a mile from the river the heavy sands terminated, the remainder being hard, firm, stony, and capable of supporting the weight of artillery. From time to time we traversed, in our progress, large patches of ground thickly strewed with variegated pebbles, beautiful agates, and pale cornelians, such as were found by Bell of Antermony on the plains of Mongolia; and observed the sand marked in various directions

by the tracks of the gazelle, accompanied, in some instances, by those of some much larger animal, that seemed to have been in pursuit of it. On drawing nearer the mountains, we perceived, moving slowly across the sand, a single gazelle, which, on seeing us, immediately took to flight, and disappeared. Our estimation of the distance of the mountains proved to be erroneous. We had been in fact deceived by the even surface of the waste, for having proceeded mile after mile, we seemed to be no nearer our journey's end, while the sun poured down its burning rays, tempered, however, by a pleasant breeze from the west, constantly blowing, and maintaining an agreeable freshness in the air.

CCXCV. The sands, as we advanced, were covered for miles round with fragments of lava, red, black, and grey, and increasing in magnitude and abundance as the distance between us and the mountains diminished. In denominating the substances we here saw *lava*, I pretend to no scientific precision, though to me they appeared exactly of the same nature with those so abundantly vomited forth by Vesuvius and Etna; and the features of the cones themselves presented so strikingly volcanic an aspect, that, those of Vesuvius itself, viewed from the Bay of Naples, seemed less so. A few hundred yards to the right of our track, in a small hollow near the foot of the hills, we saw a mirage, more perfect than the one I had witnessed near Canopus, yet evidently falling far short of the descriptions of other travellers.

CCXCVI. Reaching the mountains in about three hours, we found the whole surface of the plain around, the ravines, vallies, and narrow gorges dividing the innumerable cones from each other, incumbered with showers of cinders and lava, which seemed to have been poured forth from various craters, and to have run in several directions over the sand, in small black bubbling rivulets, cooling and hardening as they ran. The loftiest of the nearer cones, towering six or seven hundred feet above the table-land of Nubia, appearing from below to present evident traces of a crater, we resolved to ascend it, though the day was already far spent ; and, in making towards it, passed over one of the smaller hills, resembling in form an oblong barrow, and divided from the neighbouring mountain by a deep torrent bed, now dry ; while the vast cone by which it might be said to be overshadowed, distinguished by features gloomy and dismal beyond conception, covered on all sides with black rocks, scoriæ, and ashes, torn up by rain torrents, scorched and pulverised by the sun, appeared like an infernal mount on the banks of the Cocytus. The ascent to its summit was eminently difficult and laborious. To say nothing of the heat, which, however, was such as is seldom experienced in Europe, our movements were impeded by the nature of the ground, the scoriæ and cinders slipping every moment from beneath our feet, and causing us frequently to climb twice or three times over the same space. Many parts, also, which seemed practicable at a distance, were now found to be nearly per-

pendicular. Our long walk over the sand had wearied us, and we often paused to compare what we had achieved with what was yet to be accomplished. But, persevering in our undertaking, we at length reached the summit.

CCXCVII. The prospect commanded from this lofty pinnacle, is, I am convinced, unlike anything elsewhere met with in the world, the whole surface of the desert to the west and south, being covered, farther than the eye could reach, with enormous black cones, in some places springing up in isolated masses, and elsewhere united by a curtain of rocks into immeasurable ridges, rising in endless succession beyond each other. Ten thousand volcanic peaks here, perhaps, come under the eye at once ; yet these appear to be but the beginning of a series of similar mountains, extending to an unknown distance towards the heart of Africa. The crater, if crater it was, found upon the summit of the mountain we had ascended, was now shallow, as if it had been filled up by time, and we found several bones, probably of camels, among the cinders. When war prevails among the desert tribes, scouts, perhaps, may be stationed on these heights, to watch the movements of the enemy ; for we observed on one of the peaks a small rude breastwork of stone, probably intended to cover the bodies of the scouts, like those behind which they lie concealed when hunting the gazelle. On returning towards *Dakke*, where the great propylon served as a pharos to direct our course, we passed, near the village, a narrow beautifully green *oasis*, about three

quarters of a mile in length, and running nearly parallel with the banks of the river. It is indebted for its fine verdure to a fountain, situated near its northern extremity, whence sufficient water is raised for the irrigation of the whole. Night had already commenced when we reached the Nile, so that, postponing the examination of the ruins until the morrow, we moored opposite the temple.

Monday, Jan. 21. *Seboua*.

CCXCVIII. The temple of *Dakke*, which we visited early in the morning, is unquestionably the most remarkable piece of architectural patchwork I have anywhere seen, exhibiting three distinct styles of construction. The nucleus of the whole, was originally a small square chapel, of elegant proportions, with a diminutive propylon in front. An apartment was then added to the southern end, and a wall built round the whole, about three feet and a half outside of the chapel. Between the new and old walls, we found, towards the east, a narrow chamber, containing a deep sepulchre, at the southern end of which, are seen the figures of three lions, cleverly executed, two seated facing each other, with the yoni-lingam, and two large feathers, between them; the third, in another compartment above, walking towards the east, while a *Cynocephalus** appears to be wor-

* Aristotle, quoted by Dr. Pritchard, describes the *Cynocephalus*, or dog-headed monkey, as an ape without a tail. But he was certainly mistaken; for on all the Egyptian monuments this animal is represented with a tail, which, when seated, he curls round his feet like a cat.

shipping before him with uplifted hands. Over one of the chapel doors, four of these animals, with very long tails, are approaching in procession a winged scarabæus, the symbol of the sun. On the eastern wall is Isis, seated on a throne, with Harpocrates standing behind her, enjoining silence in the usual significant manner. In the additional modern chamber, are two figures presenting a sphynx and a wreath of flowers to one of the principal divinities, seated on a throne.

CCXCIX. In design and execution there is but little difference between the bas reliefs on the ancient chapel, and those in the southern apartment, or the small sepulchral chamber, which are comparatively modern additions; but all are extremely superior to the sculptures usually found on the walls of Egyptian temples, and seem, in the richness of the contour, to betray the handiwork of a Grecian chisel, though the attitudes and positions are stiff and ungainly by hereditary right. Even these figures, however, are surpassed, in every respect, by the *bassi rilievi* of *Amada*, near *Derr*. As nearly all the temples south of *Es-Souan*, (not including the hypogea,) appear to have been erected partly under the Ptolemies, partly under the Roman emperors, Greeks may have been employed both in the architecture and sculpture; who, though far inferior to their ancestors, and working after fixed rules and given patterns, would naturally infuse into their performances a gracefulness and delicacy unknown

to the aborigines. Be this as it may, I here remarked in the countenance of Isis a voluptuous majesty, almost approaching the superb features of a Greek woman; while Osiris is divested of that quaint precision of face, which, in many temples, gives him the air of a pagan Quaker. Here he looks proud and manly, and not like a resuscitated mummy. This is particularly the case on the exterior face of the ancient chapel, — in the sepulchral chamber on the east, — preserved from the injuries of the air by the modern casing, which seems to have been generally taken for a portion of the original edifice, though so evidently distinct from it, that you can see, and put in your hand between them, from top to bottom, more particularly on the west, where the space between the old chapel and the modern wall contains a staircase leading to the roof. Even the ancient fane, however, was never finished; the western exterior wall containing no sculptures, and the moulding and cornice having been left unpainted. Different kinds of stone were employed in the ancient and modern portions of the cella, the chapel being erected with a blueish, the casing with a tawny-coloured sandstone.

CCC. I have already observed that a small propylon originally stood in front of the ancient chapel, the space between them being exactly ten feet. Lateral walls, extending from this propylon to the casing on both sides, now form the back of the portico; but, instead of being constructed in the massive style of

the old Egyptians, they consist of two thin parallel walls, the space between open on the outside, and looking extremely mean. The ancient narrow area, or dromos, is now built up into an apartment, and roofed ; but in its southern walls you see the whole façade of the old chapel, richly ornamented with sculpture, torus, and cornice, projecting into the apartment fourteen inches at the bottom. The portico, which, with the great propylon, forms the third and most modern portion of the building, is erected in a clumsy style of architecture, and adorned with two pillars, partly built up in a mural skreen. The capitals, formed in imitation of the lotus, are broad, heavy, and surmounted by a plinth that supports the architrave. To the west of the entrance a doorway has been cut through the figures of the gods in the skreen, and on the opposite side a large aperture has been made, as if for a window. In the eastern wall likewise are two other small doorways. On the inside of the column, east of the entrance, is the figure of a man playing on a harp with twenty-one strings, which being ugly, has been supposed to represent Typhon ; but this is not quite conclusive, as many of the other gods of Egypt were gifted with but a small share of beauty. It is more probably the effigies of *Phthah*, the inventor of music, who organised all things by his divine harmony.* On the bottom of

* This is likewise the opinion of *Creuzer*, *Rel. de l'Ant. Descr. des Planch.* p. 46. *Gau*, *Antiquités de la Nubie*, pl. 24. No. 1. represents it as a bas-relief found at Dandoor ; but, if such a figure occur there also, it entirely escaped our notice.

the frame of the harp are what appear to be seven screws, one to every three chords, resembling in form the Greek delta. The figure of a Cynocephalus, walking upright, and bearing in his hands a long vase, with open mouth like a basin, and containing flowers (but this I did not note on the spot), occupies the interior of the other shaft, opposite *Phthah*. On the eastern side of the temple are the remains of a thick wall, about four feet high, which appears to have extended round the whole edifice. The different blocks of stone in this wall, as well as in the temple itself, were originally fastened together with massive clamps of metal, which is the true cause of the destruction of these buildings; for the natives, needing the metal, and restrained neither by taste nor superstition, have, in some places, in order to procure it, pulled down the walls, in others made large holes at the junction of the stones above, precisely where the metal was found. The roof of the temple consists of large blocks of stone, but inferior in size to those of *Kalabshi*. Fourteen yards in advance of the portico, is the modern propylon, eighty feet in length, fifteen in thickness, and about sixty in height; and consisting of two truncated pyramidal turrets, united in the centre by the architrave and cornice of the doorway. A small door in the southern face leads into the interior of the western turret, where we found four chambers one above the other. A narrow easy staircase ascends to the summit. From the second story there is a small door leading out upon the roof of the gateway, but

no corresponding entrance conducts into the eastern wing.

CCCI. All the while we were employed at this temple, numbers of the natives crowded about us ; some through mere curiosity, others with small bronze coins, or agates from the desert. Here we purchased a sheep for nine piastres, or two shillings and three pence, returning the skin, which the Nubians dress with the wool on, and wear on their shoulders. On the western bank we observed a small neat aqueduct, straight as a line, constructed of mud, for the purpose of conveying water to the fields, which, south of *Dakke*, widen considerably. We did not cross to the eastern side in search of *Metachompsa*, or land at *Meharraka*, being this day blessed with a fair wind, which induced us to reserve those ruins until our return. Owing to the prevalence of the breeze, the last night was a little colder than usual ; but the weather, for many weeks, had been so beautiful, the skies so cloudless, and the nights so serene, that we had ceased to think of the matter.

CCCII. About noon we passed on the eastern bank, the house of the chief of the Ababdé, settled in this part of Nubia ; — a small square neat building, with two windows towards the river, and an entrance from the south. Behind it was an extensive garden, surrounded with a good brick wall, and thickly planted with trees, the beautiful foliage of which appeared above the enclosure. Near this house, towards

the south, were several tower-like buildings, containing wheels for raising water, conveyed from thence by neat aqueducts to the upper part of the valley. The tamarisk is here plentiful, covering the western bank with verdure; and the land, on all sides, admirably cultivated, bearing strong evidence of the active industry of the Ababdé, who, forsaking the wandering life led by their forefathers, have settled and become cultivators.

CCCIH. Several miles farther south, near the village of *Bardeh*, the mountains on both sides approach the river, but those on the eastern bank are by far the more elevated. Though apparently of volcanic formation, they do not, like those to the west of *Dakke*, rise in isolated cones, but in chains or ridges, thrown irregularly between each other, and divided by deep gorges of the most dismal appearance. In many places, the naked rocks project in ragged strata from among the superincumbent masses of lava or cinders, and the tops of the mountains are pointed or conical. The narrow belt of cultivated land, running along the foot of these hills, was now covered with bright green corn, the wheat, exceedingly strong and clean, about two feet high, forming an agreeable contrast with the black rocks behind. In this part of the valley there are numerous silk trees. Many of the fields, now in stubble, had been cultivated with *dhourra*. The village of *Bardeh* stands on the eastern bank, near the river, in a small grove of date trees. On the opposite shore the cultivated land is

very narrow, the sands coming down almost to the water's edge. Here, on the summit of a rocky hill, are the ruins of an ancient town, which appears to have been considerable, many of the houses having been built of stone ; and these, together with such as are constructed with sun-dried bricks, might easily be rendered habitable ; but the Nubians appear to prefer their dhourra-thatched huts.

CCCIV. On one of the loftiest peaks of the eastern mountains, we observed a number of large stones placed upright ; the antique idols, perhaps, of the aborigines, who, like the Persians, may have delighted to worship on high places. Thick rows of tamarisk and mimosa trees, form the boundary between the desert and the cultivated land. Upon the eastern bank, near one of the wildest vallies I ever beheld, filled with a chaos of black rocks, rendered still more dismal by the shadows of the overhanging cliffs, we saw a Nubian hamlet, the smallest, the rudest, and most primitive that can well be conceived, consisting of a cluster of eight or nine circular huts, covered with dhourra stalks, in comparison with which pig-styes are well built and comfortable. God assuredly tempers the wind to the shorn lamb ; as, but for the mildness of the climate, men would certainly perish in such wretched dwellings as these.

CCCV. About four o'clock in the afternoon we arrived in the *Wady Medyk*, where, in some places, the sandstone mountains approach each other so

closely, that they barely leave space for the passage of the stream ; the eastern range being still by far the loftier, though the opposite mountains project their rugged bases farthest into the river. Half an hour to the south, the rocks on the west assume a new aspect, rising perpendicularly from the plain, leaving a narrow belt for cultivation, now covered with wheat, backed by a long beautiful grove of date trees. The appearance of these rocks is very remarkable, being disposed, not in horizontal strata, but in perpendicular columnar masses, like basalt, which is seldom the case with sandstone. In sailing up the *Wady Medyk*, we were overtaken by sunset, which painted the salient masses and airy pinnacles of the eastern chain with the most brilliant colours, more especially one vast cone, that, from its dark purple hue, seemed to be covered with heather in blossom. On the shore we could hear the songs of the Nubian peasants, returning from the fields with a light heart, to the lowly huts above described. An old raven was croaking alone upon the rocks — our vessel glided rapidly along through the rippling waves — the Arabs lay listlessly along upon the deck — the cooks were busily preparing dinner. Presently the sunshine rested only on the peaks of the mountains ; and then twilight succeeded. Continuing our voyage by starlight, we moored at a late hour below the temple of Seboua.

CCCVI. Soon after sunset we landed on the Arabian side of the river ; walking, during these

beautiful evenings, being exceedingly agreeable. The barley, in this part of the valley, already yellow, and nearly fit for the sickle, has a thick and long beard, and the grains are ranged in two rows of three deep. Consequently, the ear, which, with us, presents the same breadth on all sides, is here flattish. Wheat and barley are evidently of secondary consideration in Nubia, being merely allowed to occupy the narrow terraces on the sloping banks of the river, while the more extensive plain above is appropriated to the cultivation of dhourra. It was the same among the ancient Egyptians, who despised wheaten bread, and habitually lived upon that which was made of spelt. Mimosas and silk trees grow in great abundance upon the margin of the river. The neighbourhood is very thinly inhabited, having few hamlets, and no scattered houses. On the African side there are more marks of cultivation, and inhabitants, who, like the North American savages, collect together after dark, and, kindling a large fire, dance half naked about the flames. This evening, in proceeding along the foot of the cliffs, we observed, high up in the mountains, a large bright fire, apparently lighted for this purpose. At a distance from the hamlets few persons are ever encountered after dark. During our long walk we met but one solitary Nubian,—driving an ass, and hastening with all speed towards his home,—who saluted us respectfully, in *Kensy* or *Noubah*. Shortly afterwards we passed a ruined house, now roofless, but more spacious and solid than the common dwellings of the peasants, and having attached to

it a low covered gateway, containing a large jar, filled with water, for the use of the traveller. Many small huts are here constructed for the purpose of watching the gazelles, which descending at night in great numbers from the mountains, to feed on the young corn, and drink at the river, the Nubians, with the characteristic patience of savages, lie concealed in these huts, and shoot them as they pass. Hyænas are said to be numerous among the rocky valleys in the neighbourhood. We are again entering the land of crocodiles, and the *siksak* has reappeared with his patrons.

CHAPTER XVII.

THE LION'S WADY — TEMPLE OF SEBOUA — ROWS OF ANDROSPHYNXES — HUMAN SACRIFICE — COLOSSAL STATUES — TORRENTS OF SAND — ENCROACHMENTS OF THE DESERT — NUBIAN HAMLET — FAST OF THE RAMADAN — ANECDOTE OF THE HAJJI — WALLED DATE GROVE — SPLENDID PROSPECT ON THE NILE — CALMNESS OF THE NIGHTS — SINGING BIRDS — REGULATIONS OF THE PASHA — HOUSES OF THE NUBIANS — GRANARIES OF SAVAGES — ENCOUNTER THREE WANDERING DERVISHES — RUINS OF A SARACEN TOWN — TEMPLE OF ARMADA — EXTRAORDINARY SYMBOLICAL FIGURES — SYMBOL OF ISIS AND OSIRIS — MYSTICAL REPRESENTATION OF THE SEASONS — COLOURS OF THE NILE — ARRIVAL AT DERR — ROCK TEMPLE — MILITARY SCULPTURES — RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS — THE BURNING BUSH — TOWN OF DERR — NEATNESS OF THE HOUSES — RICHNESS AND BEAUTY OF THE PLAIN — YOUNG PLANTATIONS OF SYCAMORE — NUMBER OF THE SAKIAS.

Tuesday, Jan. 22. *Korosko.*

CCCVII. CURIOSITY seems never, in some natures, to be abated by experience. The novelty which each successive day presented, frequently caused the approach of morning to appear tardy, and led us forth before we could clearly distinguish objects. Our first business to-day was the examination of the temple of Seboua, celebrated for its long avenue of androsphinxes, which has communicated to the whole district the appellation of the "Lion's Wady." The ruin stands about five hundred yards from the river, in the midst of a large plain, probably once fertile,

but now overwhelmed with sand ; and the propylon, constructed in a plain style, looks imposing at a distance. Proceeding a short distance over the plain, we arrive at a flight of steps, adorned on either side with a statue ten feet four inches high, leading to the summit of a broad and lofty causeway of hewn stone, one hundred and eighty feet in length, along which we advance, between two rows of sphynxes, to the principal gateway. The original height of this causeway cannot now be ascertained, from the accumulation of soil about its foundation ; but it would appear to have been adorned on all sides with sculpture, for the façade, where alone a small portion of the basement is visible, exhibits the figures of men, women, and cynocephali, executed in a rude style. The statues above-mentioned, with the thin pillars to which they are attached, consist of one entire block. They face the river, and are represented with the left foot advanced, like the figures of Osiris at Gyrshé. Their heads are adorned with lofty mitres ; and a tippet, ornamented girdle, and small apron, constitute the remainder of their scanty and primitive costume. In physiognomy they differ but little from the Egyptian statues, nor are they wanting in that long, narrow, square-cut beard, which distinguishes the male divinities of this country.

CCCVIII. The approach to this temple, through long avenues of androsphynxes, with mitred heads, before time, barbarism, and drifting sands had de-

faced or concealed its ornaments, must, doubtless, have been magnificent. These figures, measuring about ten feet in length, have a hieroglyphic inscription between the paws upon the breasts, and rest on parallelogrammatic slabs, whose edges are adorned with symbolical sculpture. It is the beard alone that gives a masculine character to the face, which, without such an appendage, would be singularly feminine and delicate. Travellers, observing a small hole on the top of the head, have imagined it was designed to receive a statue or pedestal; but the means of rectifying this error were close at hand; for, by the side of the second sphynx, on the left hand, in approaching the temple from the river, we find the mitre, that originally surmounted its head, carefully removed, and placed entire upon the sand, having in its bottom a hole exactly corresponding with that in the head of the figure, intended to contain the metal bar by which they were united. The whole body of the sphynx is of a fine light grey stone; the mitre of a dusky red colour; and it was for the sake of the contrast thus produced that the whole was not wrought from one single block. These mysterious figures are very finely sculptured; the human countenance being made to harmonise so skilfully with the body of the lion, that the union does not seem monstrous. They are represented in the most perfect state of repose, the forepart of the body resting lightly upon the paws, while the long tail, as is the case when the lion lies down, after devouring his prey, curls round over the haunches.

CCCIX. The propylon*, to which we next proceeded, is constructed with blocks of stone smaller than are usually found in these edifices. On the external face, left of the entrance, is the representation of a human sacrifice, in which Burckhardt, adopting the opinion of Hamilton, recognises the destruction of Briareus; but nothing can be more visionary; for, instead of the destruction of a giant, whose prodigious bulk and terrific aspect inspired even the gods with fear, we have here a colossal figure grasping two diminutive mortals by the hair, and about to strike off their heads with an axe. Osiris, bearing the symbol of eternal life, stretches forth his right hand towards the victims, either to direct or prohibit the sacrifice; probably the former. The same group is repeated on the opposite side, where the god is hawk-headed, and the sacrificer brandishes the axe in his left hand. On the south side, close to the door-way, is a colossal statue† overthrown, whose head and breast, when Burckhardt visited *Seboua*, were covered with sand, — now

* Its dimensions are as follow : —

	Feet.	Inches.
Length of front	80	6
Height, from the present level of the sands	31	6
Probable original height	40	0
Height of central door-way	20	10
Breadth of door-way	6	8
Depth of propylon	13	5

† Its dimensions are : —

	Feet.	Inches.
Height	12	3
Length of arm	5	8
Length of beard	1	3
Breadth of beard	0	7

cleared away. The features have been nearly obliterated. The right arm hangs down idly by the side, but the hand, probably, once held some symbol, which has been broken off. The left arm embraces a long square staff, reaching from the ground to the shoulder, and ending above in a ram's head, with mitre and broad lappets. Like the colossi at the extremity of the causeway, it has the left foot advanced, rests against a pillar, and wears a short apron, adorned with the phallus, and fastened round the waist by a richly ornamented girdle or cincture. Upon the edges of the pedestal is a hieroglyphic inscription. On both sides of the dromos are several square columns nearly buried in the sand, with colossal statues in front, resembling those of Gyrshé; the whole greatly mutilated. The cella, which is fifty-three feet in breadth,—but whose length we found it impossible to ascertain,—has now been also overwhelmed by the desert.

CCCX. From the temple of *Seboua* we proceeded along the mountains of rock and sand running parallel with the course of the river, where we observed numerous deep stony valleys partly filled up by the sands, which are driven in torrents from the desert by the impetuous west wind, and, unless resisted by the efforts of government, which alone, in these countries possesses the power of erecting great public works, will shortly swallow up all the arable land of Nubia. A proof that cultivation formerly extended much further westward than at present was

discovered on this plain ; at a considerable distance from the river a peasant was observed sinking a large pit in the sand, where, at the depth of about two feet and a half he found a rich mould, which he carefully removed to his garden. There can, I imagine, be no doubt that a considerable portion of these small flats might yet be reclaimed, by raising the water of the Nile to their level by means of powerful machinery. In fact, I this morning observed several extensive fields of light sand, divided into square compartments, which, having been well irrigated, were partly covered with fine young wheat, partly with the stubble of the last year's dhourra.

CCCXI. In a small hamlet, about two miles south of *Seboua*, was a large house of very showy appearance ; the front being covered with white stucco, ornamented with several fanciful devices, painted in bright red colours. The other houses in the hamlet consisted partly of stone, partly of mats fixed against upright poles, the roofs formed with dhourra stalks ; the whole having an air of neatness and cleanliness, seldom seen in these countries. After walking about a league through heavy sands, beneath a tropical sun, we overtook our boats. This was the first day of the Ramadan, and my worthy dragoman, in a fit of piety, had, in the morning, resolved rigidly to observe the prescribed fast ; and, accordingly, left the boat without his breakfast ; but as we were returning through the heat, he approached me, and

with a very rueful countenance remarked that it was impossible for persons, in the service of Europeans, to fulfil the injunctions of the Mohammedan religion, since, instead of sitting still, or sleeping, as the Turks do nearly all day during the Ramadan, it was necessary to be in constant motion ; and that, for this reason, as soon as we reached the boat, he should, with all due respect to the prophet, take the liberty to eat his breakfast, with a most solemn determination to make no more attempts at fasting.

CCCXII. Shortly after we passed on the eastern bank, a large plantation of date trees, surrounded by a wall, the first we had observed since our departure from Cairo. The fertile land, on this side the river, is in some places about two hundred and fifty yards in width ; but, on the opposite shore, the slope of the bank only is cultivated. For several days the wind has been extremely uncertain, sometimes blowing in strong gusts, then suddenly dying away ; during these calms the heat is excessive. Even the nights have lost that freshness observable in Egypt. At *El Malkeh* the mountains, which, a little to the north had approached the river, recede towards the east, leaving a small plain for cultivation, now covered with green corn, and many scattered date trees. West of the river are cotton plantations, intermingled with date groves. Near this village we saw a crocodile basking on a sandy island in the midst of the stream.

CCCXIII. Between *El Malkeh* and *Korosko* we enjoyed one of those prospects which are supposed to belong to Fairy Land. Nowhere in Sicily or Italy, not even on the Lago Maggiore, or in the narrow valleys of the Apennines, have I beheld anything so soft, so bright, so poetically beautiful. The Nile, here of a considerable breadth, makes a sudden bend, and, to those sailing up the stream, appears to lose itself among the distant mountains. The light breeze that impelled us along left the surface of the water unruffled. A series of small isles, some high and rocky, others consisting of a smooth expanse of yellow sand, others green and fertile, rose in succession in the centre of the stream. One of these, called *Shemt el Melook*, resembles a little Paradise, being fringed all round with tufted green rushes, behind which the smooth untrodden sand rises in a series of narrow steps to the summit, where small irregular masses of dark rock appear at intervals between copses and shady bowers of acacia, mimosa, and tamarisk trees. On one side, mountains, apparently a thousand feet in height, present their vast frowning cliffs; and, on the other lofty trees, springing from an impenetrable jungle, overhang the stream; before us, towards the south, numerous hills, of different form and elevation, rose confusedly behind each other, while a thin silvery haze, impregnated with light, floated through every hollow, break, and chasm, rendering the outline of each craggy peak, hanging cliff, and truncated pyramid strikingly distinct. Between the rocks on the one hand, and

the high woody bank on the other, the sight appeared to be carried along, as between two immense dusky walls, to a point where the country, expanding and assuming softer features, was glowing in sunshine and beauty; while the light, streaming in our faces from behind the mountains, through the lofty rows of date trees which extended along the shore, and the sun's image, too brilliant to be looked upon, was reflected from the smooth marble surface of the river.

CCCXIV. At the approach of twilight we landed on the western bank, where the desert is divided from the river only by a narrow strip of jungle. The sand is covered with patches of a fine sort of sedge, on which we found three cows browsing, and, a little farther, observed a party of Nubians approaching from the south. On mooring soon after dark, we observed, directly opposite, a large fire among the rocks, and could distinguish numerous voices, proceeding, according to our Nubian pilot, from a slave vessel from the Black Countries. In these calm evenings the whole face of the Nile is bespangled with stars, which I never observed more brilliant than to-night. But this sight the Arabs consider as unpropitious to the traveller, indicating the total absence of wind, and menacing him with unwelcome delay. I to-day observed in the fields, that, to defend the individuals employed about the *sakias* from the heat of the sun, they erect over the wheel a slight shed.

Wednesday, Jan. 23. *Derr*.

CCCXV. A little to the south of *Korosko*, we landed on the eastern bank, which must here have exceeded thirty feet in height. The plain above was thickly planted with palm trees, among which we walked for some time, amused by the cooing of the doves, and the songs of several other birds, the notes of one of which greatly resembled those of the thrush. According to a regulation of the Pasha, when any boat in the public service ascends the river, the *reis* is authorized to call on such Nubians as may be working at the *sakias* between *Korosko* and *Derr*, to assist in tracking ; because the course of the stream in this part being from west to east, a fair wind is scarcely to be expected, as it generally blows either from the north or south. Taking advantage of the Pasha's ordonnance, the crews of travellers also seize upon the peasantry, and compel them to aid in tracking ; and our pilot, pretending to be in the service of government, began to avail himself of this privilege ; but, when the men had been taken from one or two wheels, the alarm being spread, all the *sakias* were abandoned. The inhabitants of the villages likewise escaped into the mountains, so that when I passed through, they appeared to be *deserted*, except that once or twice a sheep was heard to bleat, or a dog to bark among the heaps of rubbish. In all these villages the houses, roofed with palm branches, are built with mud in the form of square towers, large at the base and gradually decreasing towards the summit, exactly like an Egyptian propylon ; each dwelling

possessing a spacious court surrounded by high walls, in which, so long as there is shade, the women are accustomed to perform their household work. And by the side, or in front of the greater number, is a platform of clay about eighteen inches high, and eight or ten feet square, surrounded by a neat parapet. On these platforms they spread mats and sleep during the summer. Here we observed several sheds, consisting of two walls and a roof, containing, for the use of travellers, jars filled with water, which are closed with a round mat, and have a small brown cup placed beside them. The water exposed to a free current of air, is kept cool as in the Nile. Near the same villages I remarked several square shallow pits sunk in the ground coated with white plaster, in which they deposit their newly-threshed corn until perfectly dry; and while in these granaries the grain is covered with straw. What is wanted for immediate use they preserve in large jars, which, — such is the honesty of these barbarians, — they commonly place on the outside of their doors. Dates, also, are thus kept. *

CCCXVI. Here, on the edge of the stony desert, we were overtaken by three dervishes, travelling towards the south, each bearing on his shoulder a thick pole, with a large round knob at the bottom,

* All savage nations appear to possess granaries of this description. The Kaffers, in southern Africa, hollow out in the earth, wells about six or seven feet in depth, nicely plastered over, small at the mouth, and gradually enlarging to the bottom, in which they preserve their grain. A similar practice prevails, likewise, among the rude tribes of Tartar and in various other parts of Asia.

and about twelve feet in length, bound from end to end with a small coarse cord, so as entirely to conceal the wood. To the top were attached a number of long strips of cotton of different colours, which, as they walked, fluttered in the wind ; and on the other extremity was suspended a basket containing their provisions. They were decently dressed for men of their caste, and he who appeared to be the chief, wore on his shoulders a quilted shawl, the colours of which had once been brilliant. We walked slowly to allow of their overtaking us. Saluting us with the “*Salām aleykum*,” they requested something for the love of God ; and I gave them a few piastres, for which they appeared to be exceedingly thankful. Walking on with us they related their history. One describing himself as a native of *Siout*, another of *Fouah*, and the third of some other small town in Egypt ; and they had all now travelled from the cell of a great Moslem Saint at *Tanta* in the Delta to visit another holy man of much celebrity, four days’ journey beyond the second cataract. They were young men, under forty, and two of them had pleasing countenances. The third, who wore his long black hair, like an Ababdé Arab, possessed a set of wild and rather savage-looking features, and went bare-headed in the sun, reminding me strongly of the faces of the old Christian ascetics of the early ages of the Church. I purchased of the principal dervish his chaplet of wooden beads, with which he seemed somewhat unwilling to part, though, as he said, he did so, to oblige a stranger. Their heavy poles not permitting

them to walk at our pace, we quitted them and continued our ramble along the shore.

CCCXVII. The plain, whose surface is at least forty feet above the level of the river, is here of considerable breadth, and was now covered with luxuriant crops of wheat, lentils, kidney beans, peas, and onions, among which many fine cotton plantations were interspersed. A *sakia* occurs at almost every hundred yards. Having walked about six miles, we reached the ruins of an ancient town, situated on the brow of a hill, where portions of several stone buildings of spacious dimensions are yet standing, in one of which I observed a small Saracen arch of brick. From the style in which the greater number of the houses had been erected, and the space now covered by the ruins, this had evidently been formerly a considerable place. Near the top of the hill we observed a Nubian digging among the broken walls; but when we drew near, to make some inquiries respecting the place, he ran away towards the mountains, though we repeatedly requested him to stop. While sitting on a stone, farther down, four or five women passed by, two of whom appeared very old and wretched. The others, who wore long loose trowsers, and were otherwise well dressed, covered the lower part of their faces as they passed. They were tall large women, with light complexions, and bright black eyes, probably Arabs, or Bosnian women from *Derr*.

CCCXVIII. Returning to the river, and entering our boat, we continued tracking until opposite *Amäda*, where we crossed over to visit the ruins. Burckhardt, who denominates this place *Hassaya*, observes that a village formerly stood near the temple; but from the Nubians whom we questioned on the subject, nothing could be learned respecting either the name, or history of the place. The principal ruin which faces the river stands about two hundred yards from its banks. There is no propylon; and the front of the pronaos has been destroyed: but it contains twelve square pillars, eight of which are built up in the front and side walls. Behind these, immediately in advance of the cella, is a row of four polygonal columns, surmounted by plinths instead of capitals. A short passage has been erected at the entrance to the portico, with sculptured stones, taken, perhaps, from some other part of the building, and thrown together without any reference to the figures they contained, — here a mitre, there the head it once adorned. The filling up of the intercolumniations is clearly a recent work. Over a square opening in the roof, a small Greek cupola has been erected on four arches. Among the symbolical sculpture in the pronaos is the triangle, or symbol of joy; a horned serpent, with the thigh, leg, and hoof of some animal placed over it; a butterfly with three pair of wings and a long tail; a globe, with two long legs, like those of Charles XII. of Sweden in his war-boots; the human eye; the goose; the ibis; and the ploughshare. But this pronaos is a mere

modern excrescence, which has entirely spoiled the appearance of the ancient small and almost square temple, originally destitute both of portico and propylon.

CCCXIX. The entrance to the cella is nearly choked up with sand, so that it is necessary to stoop in passing through the once lofty door-way. The distribution of the apartments is peculiar: first, a narrow chamber extending the whole breadth of the temple; then three others in the opposite direction, the central one running the whole length of the edifice, the others divided near the farther extremity. On the interior of the front wall of the cella, to the right, we find Isis embracing Osiris, whose lips are very thin, and whose eyes are long, and dipping a little in front: both faces ugly. On the opposite side is represented in the usual way the consecration of a king.* Proceeding into the adytum, we find the walls covered with extraordinary figures, to which it appears difficult to assign any signification. In the midst of these is a black and white calf, with its four legs bound together with a yellow cord or riband, apparently as a victim for sacrifice. Its face is turned towards the spectator. Over his flank is a goose, in the act of biting him, while the thigh, leg, and hoof of some larger animal are suspended over his neck and head. On the opposite wall is a *red* calf, bound in a similar manner; but here the back is towards us;

* See the description of Parembolé.

and two geese, the one flying, the other biting him as before, occupy the upper division of the compartment. The ancient Egyptians, like the Hindoos, worshipped the bull ; but they likewise sacrificed, and ate him ; a circumstance not easy of explanation. Perhaps, in regard to the male animal, it was not the species, but certain individuals selected from among them, that received divine honours ; whereas the cow could under no circumstances be slaughtered, without incurring the guilt, and, if discovered, the punishment of sacrilege, which was death.

CCCXX. At the farther extremity of the adytum are Aroeris and Osiris seated on thrones in the sacred boat, while a votary approaches them bearing in either hand a globe. Turning into the small chamber on the right, we observe on the northern wall, Osiris in the act of walking, holding, like the Apollo, a small roll in one hand, and brandishing the flagellum in the other. Above him is another male figure bearing a sword, with a star over his head. A very extraordinary hieroglyphical group is found on the opposite wall, consisting of the Kteis-Phallus *, surmounted by a delta, formed thus Δ , and enclosed between the wings of the sacred vulture, which grasps the ring of

* I have already observed that among the ancient Egyptians, as well as among the Hindoos, the great first cause, was regarded as masculine-feminine, and that this is supposed to be its symbol. The delta or triangle was the symbol of Venus Genetrix, as presiding over the transmission of the principles of life. Dr. Young (Specimen of Hieroglyphics, p. 156.) considers it as the emblem of joy, and with good reason ; but " life " may, perhaps, be the serious original signification.

the yoni in its claws. On the left, but evidently belonging to the group, is the plough-share. Near these hieroglyphics, on the right, perhaps connected with their meaning, is Osiris, driving before him four cows, which we must suppose to be walking side by side, though on the wall they are represented above each other. A cord is attached to the left fore-leg of each animal; and the four strings after encompassing the hand like a sword-guard, have each a Kteis-Phallus suspended at the end. The first cow, beginning at the top, is black and white; the second red and white; the third red; the fourth black. In the left hand of the deity is a goad, with which he urges on the black cow. In front of each is a symbol: before the first, something resembling the flame of a taper with a kind of extinguisher above; before the second a small globe, with a phallus springing downward from its disk; an ibis precedes the third; and in front of the last is a series of steps, probably four; but they are not very distinct. Together with the cords, the god bears in his right hand a waved staff. In all this we may perhaps discover some mystical representation of the seasons of the year, beginning with the spring; and reference may also be made to the changes which take place in the river. At four periods of the year the Nile varies its appearance: the Turks relate that at the commencement of the inundation the Nile is blue; then, being first impregnated with red earth, that it is turned to blood; at the height of the inundation, when carrying away great quantities of earth from

Upper and Lower Egypt, that it is black* ; and, at very low Nile, that it is green. The Turks, who are very particular respecting the purity of their beverage, boil the Nile water at this period before they drink it ; but when the river is of a reddish hue, the natives deem no filtration sufficient to render it perfectly clear, which, being a temperate people, they regard as a great curse. About a hundred yards from this temple there is another small edifice, the roof only of which is visible above the sands. It might be easily excavated, and though I observed the tops of some broken columns, which seem to have belonged to a kind of skreen, the body of the building, from having been buried for so many ages, is probably little dilapidated. Returning to the river, and continuing our voyage, we arrived shortly after dark at *Derr*.

Thursday, January 24th. *Wady Ibrim*.

CCCXXI. The inhabitants of *Derr* are supposed to be the descendants of a number of Bosnian soldiers, established in Nubia by Sultan Selym ; and still in a great measure preserve their comparatively fair complexion, and European features, though, in many instances, it is clear, from their physiognomy, they have intermarried with blacks. In the morning several decently dressed lads passed by our boat on their way to school, with the wooden tablets, on which they are taught to write, in their hands. These tablets have

* *Brown* was the word employed by my informant ; but he would have called the Nubians a *brown people*. We call them *black*.

a small open handle at one end, and are finely polished with a sort of chalk-stone from the mountains ; with which also, and with water, each lesson, when finished, is rubbed out. Having no reeds, they write with the stalk of the dhourra, which appears to make a good pen, as the characters, I observed, were very cleanly formed. One of these little fellows, about twelve years old, accompanied by several of his companions, conducted us to the hypogeum of *Derr*, excavated in the face of the rocky mountain behind the town. Time or barbarism has nearly destroyed the pronaos, nothing now remaining but a portion of the side-walls, the row of columns in front of the cella, and the lower part of the others. On the wings of the portico are sculptured a series of military achievements, probably intelligible when the whole was entire ; but, at present, the greater part of the figures being destroyed or much defaced, we can form but an imperfect conjecture of the meaning. Commencing with the centre of the southern wall, where the subject begins to be intelligible, we behold the victor furiously driving over fallen enemies, some of whom lie dead upon the ground, while others, wounded and disabled, incapable of eluding his chariot-wheels, lift up their hands in agony, as if to deprecate his fury. In aid of these prostrate wretches the god Mendes, or Chemmis, advances, and with uplifted hand beckons the victor to stay his career. Behind him are several other figures, perhaps of suppliants. A little above we perceive a fugitive drawing a Parthian bow at his pursuers ; while another, like

one of Homer's heroes, is lifting a vast stone to hurl at them. Farther on, a little removed from the scene of war, an aged man is leaning on a staff, apparently watching the event of the battle ; while another individual, probably his son, is delivering up his child, which he seems to have been caressing, to its mother, previous to joining his countrymen in the field. Below this group is a bull, drawing a car towards a tree, while in front a dog leaps up at him in play. On the opposite wall a colossal figure leads into the presence of the hawk-headed god a number of captives, some with their hands tied behind their backs, others having their arms bent in a very cruel manner over the shoulders. These are followed by the conqueror in his chariot, with an immense procession of soldiers, &c. in his train. The action appears to be continued on the façade of the building. On the right side of the entrance is a group of captives, held together by the hair, by a colossal figure, who, with uplifted axe, is about to strike off their heads. This bloody scene takes place, as usual, in the presence of Osiris, who stretches forth his hand towards the victims, — whether to stay or enjoin the sacrifice does not appear, — and, behind the god, two figures are making an offering upon an altar. The same group is repeated on the other side of the entrance ; but here Osiris is hawk-headed, and bears in his hand a sickle, the emblem of agriculture, signifying, perhaps, that when the art of tilling the earth, invented by this divinity, had made some progress in Egypt, they ceased to kill and eat their prisoners.

CCCXXII. Entering the cella we observe on either side a row of massive square columns, without capitals, resting on a kind of plinth, or low pedestal, along the top of which, from pronaos to adytum, runs a stone rafter, seeming to support the roof. The doorways are adorned with frieze, cornice, and moulding, and surmounted by the winged globe. On the several faces of the columns are figures of gods, joining hands with mortals, or most familiarly throwing their arms over their shoulders. On the southern wall the sacred boat is borne along by numerous figures, several of which are evidently negroes; the others who, though of a different race, aid in the pious labour, are distinguished by the serpent on the forehead and their garments of leopards' skins, from which the head, retained as a warlike ornament, depends upon the breast, while the paws descend half way down the leg. Within the boat the lotus appears to be the object of adoration, being approached by numerous votaries bearing the sacred plant in their hands. A repetition of this group is found on the northern wall. And beyond it, near the adytum, is a very extraordinary bas-relief, from which it may be conjectured the Egyptians were well acquainted with that part of the sacred history recording the appearance of the Lord to Moses in the burning bush; Osiris being here represented in the midst of a large bush, seemingly on fire, bearing the flagellum in one hand, while the other is extended towards the figure of a bare-headed man (probably a priest of *Phthah*), who stands before him in a reverential attitude,

holding with both hands a staff terminating above in the symbol of the primitive divinity. Near the priest is Isis Leænata, with the globe of the moon on her head ; and on the opposite side of the bush, which resembles that on the walls of the Memnonium at Thebes, is Thoth, with the head of an ibis.

CCCXXIII. Passing into the small side chamber, south of the adytum, we find a bearded, unmitred deity, seated on a throne, with a votary before him bearing an offering of fruit ; while another is presenting a flower growing in a vase to Osiris. Farther on is Aroeris Hierax, having before him an altar bearing a full blown lotus, and a priest who holds the kteis or delta in his left hand. On the opposite wall are Isis, Osiris, and Horus on thrones, with a strange rude figure, probably *Jom*, the Egyptian Hercules, standing before them with a club in his hand. In the adytum the sacred boat is again introduced, passing over a number of bird-headed jars ; at the extremity of the chamber is a stone bench, with a resting place for feet, where four figures in alto-relievo once stood ; and on either side, are small niches, supposed by some to have contained coffins ; but more probably intended to receive the sacred vessels. Here, in the opinion of many writers, the gods of Egypt were lodged before the magnificent fanes of Luxor, Medinet Habou, and Karnak, were erected in their honour ; but as Egypt had reached a high degree of wealth and power before she achieved the conquest of Nubia, it seems more reasonable to

suppose that the temples erected in her own territories were the more ancient. The battle scenes sculptured on the walls of the pronaos, probably represent events that took place during the wars, which terminated in the subjugation of this country ; but as Nubia was frequently united with and again separated from Egypt, nothing can be inferred from this circumstance to fix the date of the excavation of the temple.

CCCXXIV. The town of *Derr*, to which we now descended, seemed by far the most agreeable place I had seen in the valley of the Nile ; the houses being exceedingly well-built with clay, or sun-dried bricks, placed alternately in horizontal and oblique layers, giving the whole wall a pretty fanciful appearance. Herodotus observes that, to escape the mosquitoes, the ancient Egyptians were accustomed, at certain seasons of the year, to sleep on the tops of high towers ; and the people of *Derr* may, perhaps, be actuated by the same motive in the erection of their dwellings, which, like the pigeon-houses of the Thebaid, are constructed in the form of square towers, with a large court in front, surrounded by high walls. The streets are wide and scrupulously clean. Even in the environs there are none of those heaps of rubbish and filth that disfigure the Egyptian villages ; but, instead of these, neat walled gardens, filled with orange, date, and acacia trees. Within the town we observed, standing in the centre of spacious squares, two magnificent sycamores, with a neat platform con-

structed round their trunks, where the inhabitants spread their carpets and smoke in the shade. These trees, with their massive foliage, afford a fine shade all day, and the surrounding space being cleanly swept, I imagine that, when the labours of the day are over, the natives assemble here to enjoy their pipe, and hear the news, or the wonderful narratives of the story-teller. There was no appearance of poverty; neither beggars, ragged women, or naked squalid children. The boys in the streets wore neat caps, and their clothes, of unbleached white, looked remarkably clean and substantial. The women likewise, whom we saw sitting in their shady courts, were well dressed, and wore large necklaces of various coloured beads. Their hair was arranged in small straight ringlets, as among their neighbours the Nubians.

CCCXXV. The valley immediately south of *Derr* is fertile and beautiful, and covered, for the most part, with palm trees, which, being planted in straight lines, with the branches meeting above, form stately avenues extending from the river to the mountains. Fields of wheat and tobacco, and extensive cotton plantations, alternate with each other to the extremity of the Wady. Near the rocks dividing the territories of *Derr* from those of *Ibrim*, we found at the foot of the hills, a considerable village, around which the fields seemed to be cultivated like a pleasure garden. A *sakia* occurred at every hundred yards. Along the pathway we remarked numbers of young sycamore

trees, planted within a circular clay enclosure, four feet high, and as many in diameter ; and at intervals, among the palms, luxuriant lemon and orange trees, now bare of fruit, enclosed by similar walls. In one of the date gardens the whole surface of the ground was covered with the purple flowers of the small kidney bean peculiar to Nubia.

CCCXXVI. Having passed the rocks in the boat, we again landed in the *Wady Ibrim*, where the fields seemed to be still more carefully cultivated. Our course lay over narrow neat pathways, shaded at intervals by the *Kharwah*, or castor-oil shrub, and the cotton tree, which here attains the height of twelve feet, and was now partly covered with fine large yellow flowers, and partly with the bursting fruit, hanging upon the branches like immense flakes of snow. Below, the paths were bordered with large *solanums*, bearing flowers like those of the potato, and apples yellow as gold ; and the *kerkadan*, from the berries of which the Nubians prepare a sort of coffee. Among these, and yielding to none in beauty, grew the silk tree, with its singular fruit and flowers, purple and white, rising in large clusters among the light green lanuginous foliage. The water-wheels, here exceedingly numerous, are worked by one or two cows, urged forward with goads by children, in many cases not more than five or six years old, who being placed in a secure seat behind the animals, are carried round with the wheel. Every inch of the plain appeared to be cultivated so carefully, that not

a weed was anywhere to be seen ; and its general aspect, contrasted with the barren surrounding rocks, seemed doubly verdant and beautiful. Mooring late on a sandy point of the shore, the serene beauty of the night invited us to land ; the evening star shining most brightly, and throwing a glittering wake over the river, like the moon.

CHAPTER XVIII.

VILLAGE OF IBRIM — KIASHEFF'S DIVAN — WATCH-TOWERS — ILLUSTRATION OF SCRIPTURE — CASTLE OF IBRIM — GROTTOS IN THE CLIFF — FORTIFIED VILLAGES — ROCK TEMPLES OF ABOOSAMBAL — DESCRIPTION OF THE LESSER TEMPLE — STATUE OF ISIS — TERMINAL HEAD OF ATHOR — HUMAN SACRIFICE — MYTHOLOGICAL SCULPTURES — SANDY VALLEY — ENORMOUS STATUES — SCULPTURE OF THE EGYPTIANS AND GREEKS — REMARKS ON THE ANCIENT STYLE OF ART — FAÇADE OF THE TEMPLE — SYMBOLS AND HIEROGLYPHICS — PROCEED INTO THE INTERIOR — COLOSSAL STATUES OF OSIRIS — WARS OF MEMNON — SCULPTURED BATTLE-SCENES — POMÉ AND GRANDEUR OF THE KING — THE FIRST BATTLE — A PARLEY — SANGUINARY CHARACTER OF ANCIENT WARFARE — TERRIBLE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MEMNON — CHARIOT OF THE HERO — SACK OF THE CAPITAL — TRIUMPH OF THE KING — SACRIFICE OF CAPTIVES — MITRES OF THE GODS — RUINED TOWN AND CASTLE OF KALAT ADDE — EGYPTIAN CHAPELS AND SCULPTURE — BED OF LAVA — VAST CHASM IN THE ROCKS — PETRIFACTIONS — VALLEY OF HELL — ANCIENT BARROWS.

Friday, January 25th. *Wady Foorgundy.*

CCCXXVII. DURING the night it blew a gale, which dying away before morning, left the river covered with a slight fog. The air was keen and cold. Landing early, and continuing our walk among the palm groves, in the midst of which is situated the new village, or rather hamlet, of *Ibrim*, built after the destruction of the hill town, during the retreat of the Mamalooks towards Dóngola. The cleanliness of the natives is deserving of much praise; their houses being neat and comfortable, and the open spaces before the doors cleanly swept, and free from

every kind of filth. This may partly arise from their comparative opulence, derived from their fertile soil, and excellent dates, the best, perhaps, in the world ; but something must also be attributed to their taste for cleanliness ; for the Egyptian Arabs, even when more wealthy, are, in this respect, much behind them. Being entirely independent of the governors and kiasheffs, who, thanks to Mohammed Ali, dared not offer us the slightest molestation, we never visited them, unless when their aid was necessary in procuring provisions, or arranging an affair with a guide or camel-driver. But the neatness and air of comfort observable in the kiasheff of *Ibrim's* dwelling, induced us to step into his *divan*, where he administers justice, and receives visitors. The apartment, spacious and lofty, was furnished with nicely matted divans, and had three unglazed windows, with handsome mat blinds on rollers, looking out upon the river.

CCCXXVIII. In the grove near this hamlet we observed a species of gourd, which having climbed the stems of two or three lofty date trees, its green and white fruit hung suspended from between the branches, while the tendrils and large verdant leaves formed a kind of net-work or sheath of foliage round the trunk, like the vines trailed upon barked oaks and elms in Savoy. Throughout this *Wady* numbers of small watch-towers are erected at intervals in the fields, on the top of which, as the corn ripens, a man is placed with a sling and stones, as in Rajpootana, to frighten away the birds. To a building of

this kind the Scripture alludes, where it says, “and he shall be left desolate, like a watch-tower in a garden ;” and, at this time of the year, nothing can possibly look more desolate than one of these grey towers, standing alone in the midst of the plain. Here, I observed a striking example of the ingenuity of these rude people, who, in the harvest time, when reaping their dhourra, had left the stalks about two feet high, that they might serve as sticks to the crop of kidney beans sown immediately on the removal of the corn.

CCCXXIX. About eleven o'clock, we reached the foot of the lofty hill, rising in one vast cliff perpendicularly from the water's edge, upon which the ruined castle and town of *Ibrim*, — the *Premnis* of Strabo, — is situated. Landing at the mouth of the rocky ravine, north of the castle, we climbed between loose stones and heaps of rubbish, to the summit, which commands a magnificent and boundless view over the desert ; the numberless rocky valleys intervening, the meanderings of the river, the bold hills, surmounted with the tombs of Mohammedan saints, presenting themselves at once to the eye. The ruins, extending over the whole summit of the hill, possess no architectural importance, though a great portion of the castle walls is evidently of ancient date.* Two

* Among the names of travellers cut on the wall of one of the edifices near the edge of the rock, I observed that of Burckhardt (Ibrahim) 1813. A. L. Corry, J. Belmore, 1817. Hanbury and Waddington, 1820. W. Hamilton, *no date*.

or three edifices, one of which had been used as a mosque by the Turks, contain several sandstone and granite shafts and capitals, which are also ancient. The capitals are of a peculiar form, square above, with a ram's head at each of the four corners, and between the heads a rose or rosette, alternating with a Greek ornament, sometimes denominated the Maltese Cross. One or two of these buildings have the appearance of places of Christian worship; and the high wind, moaning through the ruins, recalled the day I once passed in the church of our Lady of Guibray. In descending from the castle towards the south, several square towers present themselves, built with small stones on the ruins of the ancient wall, which would seem to be of Roman construction. Viewed on this side, from the depth of the ravine, the castle, standing on scarped and inaccessible cliffs, exhibits a highly imposing appearance, and, during the prevalence of the ancient system of warfare, must have been impregnable; but artillery might easily be brought to bear upon it from the neighbouring heights. In the face of the cliff, about fifty feet above the river, are several small Egyptian grottoes, adorned with hieroglyphics and rude sculpture; but to reach them it is necessary to creep along the face of the precipice over a narrow ledge, in some places not exceeding two or three inches in breadth. We entered two of them, where we found in a niche the figures of Isis, Osiris, and Horus, arranged as in the large rock temples of Nubia.

CCCXXX. Near the village of *Anké*, on the eastern bank, about three leagues south of *Ibrim*, are two lofty insulated mountains, of very remarkable appearance, the northernmost resembling a vast marquee, whose rugged sides have been torn by the tropical rains into deep gorges, between which the mountain projects its roots, like enormous buttresses, into the plain. Viewed from the north, the second mountain seems to be the commencement of a chain. About four o'clock we passed the village of *Toske*, embosomed in date and mimosa groves. The upper part of the *sakias*, in some places not forty yards apart, was here surrounded by a sort of skreen, of clean dhourra stalks, which looked like neat yellow cane work; and the cultivation depending on them carefully conducted down to the water's edge. In the midst of the dwellings of the peasantry we observed a large building, something like the moiety of a propylon, about thirty-five or forty feet in height (furnished with loop-holes for musketry, like the village fortresses of Greece and Hindostan), to which the villagers probably retired, or transferred their most valuable property, during the incursions of the Bedouins. The aspect of the eastern bank is here eminently interesting; water-wheels, high garden walls, numerous scattered houses, and the pointed rocky pinnacles of lofty mountains presenting themselves in succession as the traveller ascends the stream. Beyond *Toske* the date-trees disappear, but the mimosas and tamarisks continue; and here a chain of low hills approaches the river. Passing

Wady Ermyné about dusk, we shortly afterwards entered *Wady Foorgundy*, where the night air was exceedingly keen and cold.

Saturday, Jan. 26. *Faras*.

CCCXXXI. Leaving our moorings soon after day-break, we found our hands and feet tingling with cold, as on a frosty morning in England. The course of the river, in ascending, is here W.N.W. In this part of the *Wady* the sands, on the western bank, descend to the edge of the stream, leaving barely sufficient space for a row of tamarisk and acacia trees. The opposite shore displays a belt of cultivation, fluctuating in breadth, until we arrive at the point where the low hills project into the river, and form the line of separation between the *Wady Foorgundy* and the *Wady Farrek*, where the sand hills on the west are partially covered with copses of tamarisks. Beyond this point the course of the river is a little to the south of west. The north wind blowing almost a gale, we sailed at an extraordinarily rapid rate, and about eleven o'clock arrived at *Aboosambal**, where, directly opposite the temples, there is a large cultivated island, not marked in the

* By the Nubians this name is pronounced *Abasambal*, the nearest approach to *Abacimpolis*, (supposed to have been the ancient appellation,) of any of the strange corruptions which it has undergone. Several authors have adopted the better known corruption of the Arabs, many of whom, however, say *Aboosimbil*. It has been written by different travellers in a variety of ways, *Ebsambal*, *Ebsambool*, *Ibsambool*, *Ypsambul*, &c. If the city of *Abacis* stood here, the Nile must unquestionably have flowed much farther to the east.

maps; to the east of which, in all probability, the Nile anciently flowed, leaving at the foot of the western mountains a considerable plain.

CCCXXXII. The two temples of *Aboosambal* are excavated in the rock, in the face of the mountains, the lesser about thirty-five, and the greater about fifty feet above the level of the river at low Nile. At present, the ascent from the water is difficult, the steep sandy bank being thickly covered with sedge and prickly mimosas. We landed under the smaller temple, where there is at present no terrace; and the sandy pathway, skirting the rock, is much too narrow to afford a view of the façade, or the colossal figures that adorn it. But, from whatever point beheld, the effect is exceedingly grand. On either side of the entrance are three colossal statues of gods, standing, with one foot advanced, in an equal number of recesses, flanked by huge sloping buttresses, covered with hieroglyphics, which appear to descend from the summit of the mountain. The first of these figures, commencing from the north, represents Horus, the second Isis, the third Osiris. The goddess is distinguished by her usual mitre, — the cow's horns, with the full moon between them. South of the entrance, the order in which they are placed is reversed, first Osiris, second Isis, third Horus. Burckhardt erroneously represents the goddess holding the infant Horus in her arms; for the right hand hangs idly by her side, while the left, containing the handle of a sistrum now broken, is

pressed upon her bosom. North of the entrance, the sistrum, if it be such, is more entire, and held in the hand ; not resting, as Dr. Richardson imagines, on the back of it. The countenance of Isis, both here and elsewhere, is soft and pleasing, but possesses nothing like grandeur ; and the features of the male deities are chubby and undignified. To render the spectator sensible of the colossal proportions of these figures, the artist has placed by their sides female figures of the natural size, some dressed, others naked ; an example of bad taste, of which even Pheidias was guilty when he represented his colossal Minerva bearing a diminutive figure of Victory in the hand. The same trick — for it is no better—was also practised by the artist who sculptured the Hercules and Telephus, in the gallery of the Louvre.

CCCXXXIII. The first objects which arrest attention on entering the cella, are the six massive square columns without capitals, that appear to support the roof. They are disposed in two rows, one on either side ; and exhibit a kind of terminal head of *Athor*, surmounted by an ornament like a temple or square tower, supposed to be emblematic of the universe, of which she was the mother.* Over the forehead runs a kind of full turban, which, passing behind the ears, and falling upon the neck on both sides, terminates in an involution, like the point of a ram's horn. Among the paintings on the walls the most pro-

* Creuz. Rel. de l'Ant., t. i. Descrip. des Planch., p. 44.

minent is the customary representation of a human sacrifice, executed with considerable spirit. The victim is kneeling on one knee, while his right hand rests on the other, as if in the act of raising himself; and his face, in the fierce agony of despair, or in deprecating entreaty, is turned towards the sacrificer, who, bearing at his back a quiver filled with arrows, appears from his lofty mitre, with the *uræus* in front, to be a royal personage. The hand also that grasps the victim by the hair contains something resembling a sceptre; while in the other he wields a sickle-like faulchion, with which he is about to cut the throat of the kneeling man. Behind the royal executioner, Isis advances to save the captive, bearing a full blown lotus in one hand, while the other is extended towards the king, to stay him from his purpose; but her benevolent design is frustrated by Osiris, who presents himself before the sacrificer, and by stretching forth towards him a sacrificial instrument, commands the completion of the horrid rites. Some pantomime of this kind may probably have been enacted by the priests, when the blood of a human being was offered up to the manes of Osiris before his tomb.

CCCXXXIV. Passing on to the southern wall, we find the usual representations of the popular gods, but with some variety in their attitudes and employments. The first group consists of a goddess, playing on a kind of musical instrument before Osiris; while a strange bird-headed divinity stands behind her in

wonder, and is succeeded by Horus and Aroëris. Isis follows next, with a new and not ungraceful addition to her mitre — a pair of wings descending behind the ears to the shoulders. Her head-dress is black, and richly ornamented. In the right hand she bears a small frame containing a scarabæus; and in the left three lotuses springing from one stem, which she is extending towards a goddess, with a mitre in the form of a corn-measure; probably the Ceres of the Egyptians. To this group succeeds a priest, presenting the small figure of a deity squatting on his hams to Osiris, seated on his throne, with the bird-headed sceptre, the emblem of power, in his hand. On the back or western wall, left of the doorway, we find a young priestess, who, having borrowed from her patron goddess her horns, moon, and mitre, approaches the throne of Isis, bearing an offering consisting of a full blown lotus, and a small frame containing a head of *Athor*, surmounted by a doorway, with a vine tendril on either side. Different versions of the same groups occur on the other sides of the chamber. It should be remarked that, in all these painted sculptures, the drapery of the female figures is so transparent, that the whole contour of the limbs and body is exhibited as if naked; which is not effected in the Greek manner, by imitating the folds of a robe soaked in water, the existence of a garment being merely indicated by a tippet above, and a rich border below; the remainder being, to borrow a bold figure from Petronius, a kind of “woven wind,” much too fine to be visible.

Among the sculptures on the northern wall, there is one which may deserve notice ; an unmitred divinity on a throne, probably *Phthah*, grasping in both hands the crosier, flagellum, and bird-headed graduated staff, with an altar before him, piled with the limbs of various victims (none, I believe, of men) ; and on the opposite side, a priest, extending a large sacrificial instrument over the reeking members. A small niche in the adytum contains a moon-mitred statue of Isis, with female-headed columns on either side. Here, according to Burckhardt, there exists a deep sepulchral excavation ; but, after a careful search, we could discover no trace of it, the rock being everywhere visible on thrusting aside the loose stones.

CCCXXXV. From this hypogeum we proceeded to the other temple, through what was once a rocky ravine, now filled up by the winds of the desert with a torrent of sand, constantly increasing, like an enormous glacier, which must shortly not only cover every trace of the greater temple, but raise the valley to a level with the mountains on both sides. Having traversed the ravine, we discover the front of the temple, hewn in the face of the mountain, with the vast colossal figures, which, like the giants in the Arabian Nights, sit before it, to guard the entrance from the approach of the profane. Their aspect at the first view is sublime ; enormous bulk in representations of animated beings invariably producing this effect upon the mind, which, in the confusion of the moment, pauses not to examine the sources of its

emotions. Of these gigantic figures there were originally four ; but the third, reckoning from the north, having been shattered by a rocky avalanche descending from the mountain above, has now a large portion of his head in his lap. The three that remain entire are male figures ; but whom they were intended to represent, it is not very easy to determine : perhaps Osiris, the greatest of the gods of Egypt, to whom the temple would appear to have been dedicated. The expression of the countenance is mild and placid, but possesses little meaning or dignity, and by no means corresponds with our ideas, or resembles the statues which remain of the Grecian Minerva ; nor can I conjecture what could possibly have suggested the idea to Burckhardt. The faces of the smaller colossi in the interior, which he did not see, may, perhaps, exhibit something more of the Pallas features ; though the resemblance will not be found to hold upon examination ; there being nothing of that vestal severity of aspect, that intrepid self-possession, that more than mortal pride and intellectual grandeur engrafted on surpassing beauty, which enter into our conception, and exist in the genuine statues of the Athenian goddess. It is difficult, perhaps impossible, to explain — except in one way — how it happened that the Egyptians never succeeded in expressing either the beauty or the austere dignity of the human form. You stand in the presence of their mightiest colossi without a particle of awe. It never enters into your imagination that those huge forms could ever be gifted with volition,

and rise from their stony seats to do you injury; some secret and obscure persuasion of which must, nevertheless, always present itself in glimpses to the mind, when it experiences that uneasy delight, mingled with terror, suggested by all objects awakening the idea of overwhelming power. To each we may apply what the poet has said of Theseus in hell, —

“ Sedet, æternumque sedebit ! ”

The traveller may, perhaps, be astonished at their size, and astonish others also, by stating the enormous length of their beards, the breadth of their shoulders, or the more than Midas-like dimensions of their ears; but, if the contemplation of works of art has ever been numbered among his pleasures, he can never be powerfully affected by such uncouth imitations of humanity. Such, at least, after viewing them carefully, without system or prejudice, are my impressions; which I state, that others, more deeply versed in the theory and practice of the arts, may hereafter be led upon the spot to investigate the subject. The importance of the inquiry is not trifling: it is intimately connected with the question, not yet definitively decided, whether the knowledge of the principles of art were transmitted from Egypt into Greece; in properly considering which, more stress, it appears to me, should be laid on the characteristic features, the essential differences, — in one word, the souls which animated the two styles of art respectively prevailing in Egypt and Greece, — than on the vague and unweighed hints of historians or travellers.

CCCXXXVI. The features of all these colossal statues display something of the square Mongol cast, with high cheek-bones ; but these distinguishing traits disappear in prints and drawings ; the passion for producing effect being commonly more powerful than the love of truth. They are furnished with the usual square beard, and wear upon their heads a mitre, like that sometimes attributed to Isis, from which long flaps descend over the shoulders half way down the breast. In front, above the forehead, the uræus, or cobra di capello, rears itself with inflated neck. Between the legs, and on either side of the colossi, are female figures of the natural size, coarsely executed, and with African features. These remarks apply to the two figures on the south ; the others being knee-deep in sand, nothing can be predicated of their accessories : but in all probability they exhibit no variety.

CCCXXXVII. The façade of the temple, smoothed perpendicularly in the face of the rock, is one hundred and twenty feet in length, and about ninety in height ; the whole of the space included within these dimensions being surrounded with a moulding, and adorned with a cornice and sculptured frieze. In a niche over the entrance is a hawk-headed god ; but the metamorphoses, in which the Egyptian deities delight, and their habit of borrowing each other's ornaments and costume, render it impossible to decide whether it should be taken for Aroëris or Osiris. He bears, however, the globe and serpent on his

head ; and on either side of him, on the surface of the rock beside the niche, is a female votary, presenting as an offering the crouching image of some inferior divinity, with the symbol of eternal life on its knees. On the frieze surrounding the doorway are mitred hawks, dogs, cows, serpents, with naked figures of Priapus and Isis, and other gods, crowned with flowers ; and the sides of the entrance are covered with similar representations.

CCCXXXVIII. Proceeding into the interior, we find ourselves in a vast hall, adorned on either hand with a row of massive square pillars, each with a gigantic statue attached to it in front. Between these lies the approach to the sanctuary and the smaller chambers within. The faces of these colossi are very fine, except the nose, which is slightly curved, too blunt at the point, and exhibiting the cartilage between the nostrils. The pupils of the eyes, and the edges of the eyelids, are painted black ; and the mitred helmet, descending almost to the eyebrows, conceals the whole forehead. The arms are crossed on the breast. In the left hand is the flagellum, in the right the crosier. All have nearly the same features ; but the *first* and *fourth* in the southern row make the nearest approach to masculine beauty. They wear short garments like aprons, with a row of six cobra di capellos on the lower edge. Their dimensions have been greatly exaggerated ; for, exclusive of pedestal and mitre, their height does not exceed eighteen feet ; including both, it may be

about twenty-two. It is erroneous to describe their *turbans* as reaching to the ceiling ; since they have no turbans, but a mitre, which does not rise above the columns, and is separated from the ceiling by the whole depth of the enormous stone beams, which, passing from the front to the back of the apartment, appear to support the roof. The effect they produce must depend upon the imagination of the traveller.

CCCXXXIX. The designs upon the walls of this hall would seem, from a circumstance which shall presently be mentioned, to represent the wars of that Memnon, or Osymandyas, the magnificent ruins of whose palace we had seen at *Abydos*. They are conceived with much boldness and fire, and, although the material embodying corresponds but ill with the original idea, the narrative is conducted with ability ; the rapid succession of events which compose this sanguinary drama being most distinctly unfolded. The action commences about the centre of the northern wall ; where Memnon, seated on his throne, is represented in the act of issuing those commands in which all this warlike movement originates. Before him are his principal satraps and great military officers, each receiving the orders and learning the part he is to perform in the coming struggle. A chariot waits in readiness for the hero of the campaign ; and the grooms, standing by the horses' necks, have their faces turned towards the palace, as if every moment expecting to behold the warlike king issuing forth. The charioteer, likewise, in the same

expectation, holds the long reins in one hand, and looks back, fearing or hoping for the sudden appearance of the monarch. Memnon, surrounded by all the pomp and circumstance of barbaric grandeur, grasps the lotus-headed sceptre in one hand, while the other is extended as in the act of speaking ; but, with the pride of an Oriental despot, he harangues sitting* ; while the great men of the kingdom, who compose his auditory, stand humbly to catch the import of his royal eloquence. Behind the throne are two sumptuously attired attendants, one of whom bears a sort of fan of feathers, mounted on a handle as long as the staff of a spear, and somewhat resembling the *sikra*, or royal fan, of the Rajpoot sovereigns of Méwar. The other, who holds the monarch's bow in his hands, seems to be seated in a chair ; from which he may be supposed to be a person of some consequence.

CCCXL. The next scene represents the army already in the field, and the commencement of the first battle. In these wars little account appears to have been made of infantry. Chariots, with several riders in each, drawn up in long crowded lines, seem to cover a vast space of ground, wheeling about and scouring the field in all directions. The charioteer

* The affectation of similar haughtiness in a free state, was one of the circumstances which hastened the fate of Julius Cæsar, who received a deputation from the senate seated in his chair. He, indeed, pleaded, in apology, the pressure of a troublesome complaint ; but the senators, accustomed to other manners, discovered in this action a manifestation of royal pride that severely wounded their own.

is always depicted with a large shield, apparently of wicker-work, which he extends before the combatants, whose principal arms are the bow and arrow, and the light javelin. Some of these chariots are seen falling over the edges of high cliffs, down which their riders, with their shields and arms, have been already precipitated, and are beheld tumbling among the rocks. Others, with the arrows in their hearts, are reeling in death, and falling under their own chariot wheels, while a third party, defeated and flying, drive at full speed over the plain, looking fearfully behind them, or drawing an unavailing bow at their pursuers. A little farther we behold a pause in the work of death. A parley takes place. Two personages of high rank, with circular bucklers, and round crests upon their helmets, attended by a number of followers with long tabular shields, meet in front of their respective armies. On one side an empty chariot stands behind in waiting ; which, from the royal canopy, adorned with the sacred vulture with outspread wings, and the magnificent plume on the horses' heads, we know to be that of Osymandyas.

CCCXLI. From the scenes following next in succession, we discover that the results of the parley were not pacific. On this portion of the wall, indeed, "the whole war comes out and meets the eye;" soldiers spearing men upon their knees — killing suppliants — giving no quarter; others engaged in deadly struggle, or falling wounded from their chariots, or lying, the struggle ended, dead upon the

ground. On a distant part of the field we observe rows of captives on their knees ; while others, with their arms bound, are led away to servitude or to execution : for such were the barbarous practices of the times. Close to these wretched groups, in whom the passion for glory has been satiated, the battle in all its fury continues. Here chariot urges on chariot, and horse, horse. They throng, push, struggle, conquer, perish. Death, the true hero of the field, strides from rank to rank, and urges them with shouts and laughter to the combat. The warriors, in some chariots, cover their bodies with long shields, in others with round. Farther off, we find the infantry marching forward to battle, in serried ranks, armed with long spears, and large bucklers covering the whole body.

CCCXLII. There is an epic variety in these representations of carnage, the eye, as it wanders along the walls, beholding at each shifting, as it were, of the scene, new images of death, new actors, surrounded with increasing terrors, paving with more sanguinary energy the way to the final catastrophe. The artist, with adulatory skill, has contrived to crowd and multiply around the king images of confusion and slaughter. Wherever he moves, rout and perdition attend him ; and, in proceeding into his presence, we pass by a soldier, apparently his armour-bearer, who is grasping an enemy by the arm, and driving a spear into his breast, while he tramples under his feet the dead body of a fallen foe. Close at hand is the king in his chariot, urging forward his fiery steed ;

dealing destruction with his vast arrows ; driving over the wounded and the dying, his flying wheels, dyed with brains and gore, crushing out their souls. He is represented in the act of drawing his bow : the arrow, not yet sped, is richly ornamented near the barb, exactly resembling in form a small copper arrow-head which I bought at Elephantine. The artist committed some blunder in forming this royal bow ; and, having been compelled to correct his error, the yew appears double in the upper part. Here, as elsewhere, the horses of the hero's chariot are adorned with waving plumes, and the figure of a globe seems to be suspended over their necks.

CCCXLIII. The enemy, unable to resist the prowess of Memnon, retreat, and take refuge within the walls of their capital, whither the monarch, ambitious and implacable, still pursues them ; and, the tediousness of a siege not suiting the purpose of the artist, the place is stormed. In their appearance and architecture, the fortifications exactly resemble the clay forts found at this day in Nubia ; where the events commemorated most probably took place. Sculpture, however, like poetry, knows how to cast the mantle of grandeur over small things, so as to make them appear great, and the reduction of a few Nubian villages, which an enthusiastic bard would denominate “ the conquest of Ethiopia,” seems, in this dumb epopœa, to rival the siege of Troy. The sack of the capital is accompanied by several affecting and well-imagined circumstances. We beheld on the walls sol-

diers who, having just cast their spears at the assailants, seem as if they had no more left. Others, who have received their death-wound, are falling back among their comrades. There are two lines of fortification, the one above the other. Just as all is lost, a woman, perhaps the Queen of Nubia, appears above upon the battlements, holding up a naked child with long streaming hair, as if to invoke the compassion of the conqueror; and near her a man, probably her husband, lifts towards heaven his supplicating hands in despair. But nothing can arrest their fate. The Egyptians burst into the castle, and we behold its gallant defenders hurled down headlong over the walls.

CCCXLIV. Victory having crowned his arms, the hero is next discovered returning in triumph to his country. He moves along in his chariot, holding the reins, together with his bow, in the left hand, while in the right he bears a quiver and a crooked faulchion. Two crossed quivers adorn the side of his triumphal car. Diodorus Siculus, in describing the achievements of Memnon-Osymandyas, relates, that this hero was accompanied during his wars by a tame lion*, which,

* Similar practices, prevailing of old among other barbarous nations, are described with graphic energy by Lucretius : —

“Inde boves lucas turrito corpore tetros
Anguimano belli docuerunt volnera Pœni
Sufferre, et magnas Martis turbare catervas.
Sic alid ex alio peperit discordia tristis,
Horribile humanis quod gentibus esset in armis :
Inque dies belli terroribus addidit augmen.

running beside his horses terrified his foe. The circumstance, whether fabulous or not, is characteristic of a barbarian, combating among rude enemies, and enables us, by a very probable conjecture, to attribute to that prince the victories here commemorated ; since we observe a lion of great size running beside the horses of the conqueror. We next find him in his own capital, in a humble attitude, on foot, leading a long procession of captives, of whom a great number are negroes, into the presence of Isis, Osiris-Ammon, and Horus. Here, we may presume, in gratitude for their supposed protection and favour, he vows to sacrifice a certain number of human victims on their altars ; and anon he is discovered with sceptre and bow in hand, performing his vow before a statue of Osiris, grasping eleven captives by the hair, and brandishing the weapon over their heads with which he is about to shed their blood. Such are the principal bas-reliefs which adorn this great hall. My description, long as it may seem, has touched but the principal circumstances of the war ; for, should I descend to minute particulars, and aim at a full account, the compass of a volume would be required.

Tentarunt etiam tauros in mœnere belli,
 Expertique sues sævos sunt mittere in hosteis,
 Et validos Parthi præ se misere leones
 Cum ductoribus armatis, sævisque magistris,
 Qui moderarier hos possent, vinclisque tenere:
 Nequicquam ; quoniam permista cæde calentes
 Turbabant sævi nullo discrimine turmas,
 Terrificas capitum quatientes undique cristas,
 Nec poterant equites fremitu perterrita equorum
 Pectora mulcere et frænis convertere in hosteis."

Lucretius, lib. v. p. 172, 173. — *Edit. Baskerville.*

CCCXLV. The sides of the square pillars exhibit the sweet modest face of Isis, with the moon and horns upon her head. Into a particular description of the fourteen chambers, of which this vast hypogeum consists, it is unnecessary to enter, as they, perhaps, contain no figures or groups not met with elsewhere. A niche in the adytum contains the figures of four gods ; the first, beginning on the right hand, is hawk-headed, probably Aroëris ; the second, having no beard, may, perhaps, be meant for Isis ; the third seems to be Osiris ; and the fourth *Phthah* ; who being, like the Grecian Vulcan, remarkable for a rude and unpromising exterior, though containing within the soul that gave birth to the arts, seems to have been often mistaken for Typhon. On the mitres worn by these divinities very curious observations have been made. The second figure, we are told, “ has a casque somewhat resembling that of Minerva.” But I have nowhere seen Athena with a helmet bearing the slightest likeness to this mitre, which, with little or no variation, is found on the head of Osiris-Serapis, as judge of Amenti, in the sculptures of Thebes. Again, “ the third is bearded, and has a tall head-dress, resembling the *tutulus*.” Now, according to Varro, the *tutulus* was “ the top of the hair, wound with a purple lace on the crown of the head, used only by the high priest’s wife, to distinguish her from other women.” The word was likewise employed, says the same author, to signify “ the peak, or tuft, of a priest’s cap.” But the head-dress here worn by Osiris is merely the lofty mitre

with two parallel compartments, commonly found on the head of Chemmis or Priapus, which in form somewhat resembles the Tables of the Law, represented in the hands of Moses in our old Bible engravings. The fourth statue has at present no head, which has fallen off, and is placed upon the altar in the centre of the adytum, ready for the next antiquarian spoliator who shall pass this way. In all the interior chambers the heat is intense, and accompanied, moreover, by a heavy nauseous smell, like that of a charnel-house. From the entrance to the extremity of the adytum, the whole length of the temple, is about one hundred and fifty feet.

CCCXLVI. From *Aboosambal* we crossed to the eastern shore, — the wind blowing very high, and the Nile running and breaking in great waves like the sea, — to examine the formation of the conical hills scattered in various directions over the plain. A little to the north of the point where we disembarked, are the ruined town and castle of *Kalat Addé*, standing on an eminence inferior in elevation to that of *Ibrim*, but not commanded by any neighbouring height. Both the fortifications and houses seem to be still in good preservation, and to require but little to render them habitable. Behind the castle, in a low valley towards the east, are a great number of pointed clay-built tombs, the necropolis of *Kalat Addé*; and about a mile to the south, immediately on the bank of the river, rises a small conical hill, in the smooth face of which, towards the

Nile, we found two small Egyptian chapels, or niches, the larger containing a statue, now broken. On the wall of this chapel, close to where the statue had stood, is a finely-formed female figure, sitting on the ground with her feet towards the spectator, like Baillie's Eve at the Fountain; with several other bas-reliefs, and numerous hieroglyphics, but all much defaced, apparently by time. Descending from this chapel, and turning the foot of the rocky hill, we pursued the camel-track leading over the stony desert towards the south, where the mountains on the left present the most extraordinary appearance, in some places towering aloft in pyramidal masses, pointed or flattened above, in others assuming the form of ridges, terminating abruptly at both ends in perpendicular precipices; their colour, alternate patches of red and black, like a heap of recent ashes. The surface of the desert, which here extends to the water's edge, is broken up by numerous torrent beds, which have torn themselves away to the Nile through rugged strata of pebbles, sand, and rocks.

CCCXLVII. Continuing our route towards the south, we reached in about an hour the bed of a torrent of lava *, about half a mile in breadth, which

* Considerably farther north, on the opposite bank of the river, the marks of a similar phenomenon has been observed by Dr. Edward Hogg of Naples, who has kindly furnished me with the following account of it, extracted from his journal :—" Friday, Dec. 14. 1832. Landed on the west bank, about three hours below Wady Sebooa, where a narrow strip of dhourra cultivation intervenes between the rocks and the Nile. Among the large masses of sandstone, which are here arranged like a Cyclopean wall, it appeared as if a stream of melted matter had issued

in some places has bubbled up in semi-globular masses like pitch, and cooled in that form ; in others, it has spread itself over the sandstone rock in a thin crust, which, when struck, sounds like a metallic plate. Beyond this we found an immense chasm in the rocks, extending across the whole plain from the roots of the mountains to the river, about fifty or sixty feet in depth, with perpendicular sides ; and, in breadth, varying from about eight or nine to fourteen feet. The bottom is covered with sand. This vast rent in the plain was probably produced by the earthquakes attending the eruptions of the neighbouring volcanoes, which have covered the slopes of the mountains and the whole surface of the desert with showers of calcined stones and black lava. Being desirous of examining the termination of this singular opening, we followed its course inward, but were frequently compelled to diverge from the direct route by deep lateral chasms, branching off from the main fissure like boughs from the trunk of a tree. Here we collected numerous specimens of black lava. On arriving at the point where the opening enters the gorges of the mountains, and becomes shallower, we

from a fissure, and rolled down in the direction of the river. It was of no great thickness, and at the place where the course of the stream had been broken, and the remainder of it washed away by the river, it became very thin. As it passed over the sandstone, the under portion was full of long cavities, and the upper part a continued surface, and the portions of rock every where near it were of a red colour, as if partially burnt. At some distance farther, where there was no appearance of this melted matter, a large fissure in the sandstone had all the appearance of having been reddened by the action of heat coming up from below."

found, near its brink, a petrified tree, which had been overthrown ages ago, and converted into stone ; yet the knots and fibres of the wood are so admirably preserved, that to the eye many of the pieces have no appearance of a petrification ; less so even than those specimens of agatised trunks and branches found in the Valley of the Wanderings. Near this was a mass of carbonated chips, imbedded in sandstone, and completely petrified. Of both we took away specimens ; but enough remains for future travellers. A geologist would find ample scope for his researches in this spot, one of the most extraordinary in Nubia, which, for its solitary position, and desolate infernal aspect, we denominated *Wady Gehenna*, or the “ Valley of Hell.” In many parts of the chasm, the rocks have been rent asunder in so violent a manner, that portions of them are left standing in the midst, divided all the way down from both precipices, and seemingly trembling on their bases. Night now approaching, we descended through a lateral fissure into the main opening, and climbing the rocks on the opposite side, regained the level plain, and hastened to our boat. There, sitting at the cabin door, we continued to observe the aspect of the country, and, just as the shadows were thickening into darkness, discovered what we had landed in search of, — a number of artificial mounds, like the tumuli or barrows on the plains of Troy. Moored at Faras.

CHAPTER XIX.

RAMBLE IN THE NUBIAN DESERT — NITROUS EFFLORESCENCE — PLANTS OF THE DESERT — RUINED VILLAGES — BEAUTIFUL CIRCULAR HOLLOW — NUBIAN GOAT-HERDS — ENORMOUS CROCODILE PARTRIDGES — ROPE-WALKS — STORM ON THE RIVER — ARRIVAL AT WADY HALFA — NUBIAN CAMEL-DRIVERS — TURKISH GOVERNOR — GOLDEN SANDS OF THE DESERT — A GAZELLE — SOUND OF THE CATARACT — SAND CLOUDS — BRUCE — THE ROCK ABOVE — MAGNIFICENT VIEW OF THE CATARACT — GRANDEUR OF THE NILE — MOST SOUTHERN POINT REACHED BY THE AUTHOR — WANDER AMONG THE ROCKS OF THE CATARACT — ISLANDS OF GREEN PORPHYRY — LIST OF TRAVELLERS IN NUBIA — GREEK CHAPEL — ABABDE CHIEF — RETURN DOWN THE NILE — UNABATED INTEREST OF THE VALLEY.

Sunday, January 27th. *Wady Halfa.*

CCCXLVIII. THIS morning, a calm having succeeded to the high wind of yesterday, we landed on the western bank, and rambled into the desert, which presents a very picturesque and original appearance. Here and there, over the whole surface of the plain, the sand has been raised by the wind into small hillocks, varying in shape and height; overgrown, in many places, with the tamarisk and silk-tree, whose entire foliage had now, by the peculiar nature of the atmosphere, been encrusted with a nitrous efflorescence, which hung upon the leaves and branches in tiny white beads, like the pearls of hoar-frost. Far in the desert we found a number of gray sandy hills,

which, probably, owe their origin to the winds, and the growth of small creeping grasses, with whose roots their whole surface is netted. Few spots, however arid and barren, are so unvisited by the vivifying influence of warmth and moisture, as not to produce some diminutive plant, some fine moss or lichen, whose curious structure enables it to imbibe nourishment from the slightest dew. The desert has many such. In several places, indeed, it is gemmed with wild flowers, which, though small, pale, and delicate, are not without beauty. And, in these sands, where the eye is not satiated with the luxuriance and splendour of a tropical flora, such unobtrusive objects please, more, perhaps, for the modesty of their pretensions, and because, like ascetic virtue, they flower in the wilderness, than for their intrinsic charms.

CCCXLIX. Returning towards the river, we once more entered among the small wooded hillocks above-mentioned, where we observed the ruins of several villages, whose destruction may, probably, be attributed to the incursions of the Moggrebyn Bedouins. Their appearance is exceedingly desolate, the drifting sands having gradually filled up the houses, which, in a few years, they will entirely overwhelm. Separate dwellings were also seen, some inhabited, others in ruins; and there is a large village still thickly peopled, at the southern extremity of which we observed a large clay-built fortress, with battlements and square towers, exactly resembling the

castle stormed by the Egyptians in the bas-reliefs of *Aboosambal*. Our path lay over the yellow sand, where we sometimes sank up to the ankles, ascending and descending among the hillocks, and emerging at intervals to the edge of the high precipitous bank of the Nile, traversing several circular basins, surrounded by sand hills, which exhibit a singularly romantic aspect. Thickly covered with tamarisks, interspersed with silk-trees, doum palms, and copses of low bushes of beautiful foliage, and carpeted with grass and fragrant wild flowers, they are precisely the spots the Bedouins would choose to encamp in, affording both shelter from the winds and browsing for their camels; and here, in an atmosphere perfumed by nature, enjoying the cool shade, silence, and the most perfect tranquillity, the traveller may for a moment taste the sweetness of a desert life, free from the sordid views and degrading sentiments which, in those who habitually lead it, too frequently, it is to be feared, place them upon a level with the least estimable portion of civilised society. Among the tamarisks in these beautiful hollows was a small tree of unknown species, strongly resembling them in appearance, which, when frosted with nitre, presented a perfectly blue appearance, as if it had been steeped in a solution of indigo. Here and there were the marks of recent fires, and around them heaps of the half-roasted fruit of the doum tree, which, in Nubia, attains a magnificent height, and being covered all the way down to the earth with leaves and branches,

exhibits a rich and picturesque aspect. Several goat-herds, — the kindlers, no doubt, of the fires, — with flocks as black as themselves, were wandering in Arcadian idleness among these woody eminences and undulating valleys; but if the exterior be an index to the contents of the inner man, their passions and schemes of life would have furnished few materials for pastoral poetry.

CCCL. The channel of the Nile is in this part divided by several small islands, or rather sand-banks, on one of which we saw an enormous crocodile, — not less, I should imagine, than thirty feet in length, — basking in the sun; and near him a smaller one, that, as soon as we came in sight, plunged into the water. In a field covered with dhourra stubble, near one of the inhabited villages, we observed a large covey of that peculiar species of partridge mentioned by Burckhardt, which often made, he observes, a welcome addition to his supper. But we were less fortunate, for they all escaped. Here we passed several of the rude rope-walks of the natives, where cordage, generally of a large size, is manufactured from the leaf of the date palm; the one end being fastened to a tree, and the other, whenever the workman quits his task, secured from untwisting by a strong wooden peg, driven into the ground; but we were unable closely to observe the process, for, whenever the rope-makers beheld us advancing towards them, they quitted their work, and escaped across the fields, fearing, no doubt, we intended to

kidnap them for the “victorious armies” of the Pasha. Both the mimosa and tamarisk flourish luxuriantly in these sands, and we observed about the villages many which had attained an enormous size ; though, the winds having half uncovered their roots, it is probable the first tempest will lay them level with the earth. There was here very little cultivation, and that little occurring in patches at intervals, on the banks of the river. The water-wheels likewise were few.

CCCLI. The wind at length springing up, we recommenced our voyage, soon after which it blew almost a hurricane, covering the river with vast waves, while the sands were whirled aloft many miles into the air. We however ascended the stream with extraordinary rapidity ; but the force of the wind continuing to increase, the Arabs, after many narrow escapes, were compelled to lower the mainsail, and even with the small one the boat was more than once nearly capsizing : but no accident happened ; and early in the afternoon we arrived at *Wady Halfa*, in the neighbourhood of the second cataract.

CCCLII. It was not my original intention to make the second cataract the extreme boundary of my travels, but, quitting the river at this point, to proceed with dromedaries through the *Batn el Hajjar* to *Sukkot* and *Mahass*, on the confines of *Dóngola*. Beasts proper for the journey it would, we imagined, be easy to procure ; and accordingly, when

the kandjia was moored, we proceeded to the house of the governor, a Turk of gentlemanly appearance, and courteous manners, through whose interference, it was supposed, good dromedaries might be obtained. Affairs of this kind, however, are always tedious. The passage of an European traveller through the *Batn el Hajjar* to *Dóngola* not occurring above once or twice in a century, the camel-driver knew not what terms to insist on. What an Arab, under similar circumstances, would have paid, was nothing to the purpose; we were strangers; and these barbarians, like the Swiss, appear to make it a point of honour to cheat foreigners. The chief of the camel-drivers, an old Nubian with a scanty beard, as meek looking as a Jew, stood before us, playing with his whip of hippopotamus hide, protesting, though the Turk admitted the sum was exorbitant, that he demanded no more for his beasts than a Mussulman would pay. Finding he obstinately adhered to his first proposition, we left him abruptly, and proceeding southward along the banks of the river, towards the cataract, came in sight of the rocky islands, between which the river precipitates itself; but the day drawing towards its close, we found it necessary to restrain our curiosity until the morrow. The wind continued boisterous and the weather cold throughout the night.

Monday, January 28th. *Wady Halfa.*

CCCLIII. In the morning, as we were about to cross to the western bank, on our way to the cataract,

the old Nubian camel-driver came on board, but his terms being still unreasonable, we again failed to enter into any definitive arrangement. Landing at the foot of the rocks, near the tomb of Sheikh Abdulgadir, a celebrated Mohammedan saint, we directed our course towards the south, over an alternately sandy and stony tract, along the slope of the low chain of hills which here borders the stream. The rocky strata composing these hills present a very peculiar aspect, being nearly as white as chalk, and containing innumerable crystals of shining spar. The sand, disposed in beautiful slopes, extending from the rocks to the Nile, is of a rich deep yellow colour, glittering like gold in the sun. In our way we saw several gazelles, that having been drinking at the river, or feeding near its banks, were scared at our approach, and bounded with prodigious rapidity towards the desert, appearing but for a moment, before they were lost among the rocks.

CCCLIV. We had not proceeded far before the sound of the cataract was distinctly audible, which, in the silence of night, must be heard at a great distance. The wind blowing fiercely, and raising aloft, like mist, the fine sands of the desert, drifted them across the river, far into the eastern plain, where other sandy clouds were rolling rapidly along: but they were thin and ill defined, — nothing like those huge pillars, raised by the whirlwind, and beheld by Bruce, driven in endless files over that self-same wilderness; the hope of beholding which had

chiefly tempted me into Nubia. But they seldom appear, except, perhaps, in one particular portion of the desert; though, from what I have myself witnessed, I am led to yield the fullest belief to the traveller's sublime description.

CCCLV. In about two hours we arrived at the rock *Abousir*, an isolated hill about one hundred and fifty feet in height, beetling over the cataract. It is itself a striking object, and from its summit the view comprehends the whole extent of the falls. Looking towards the south, we behold the Nile, its channel being about a mile in breadth, emerging from among a chaos of rocks, as if it here sprung in all its grandeur from the earth. Flowing northward, between innumerable islands of green porphyry piled into the most fantastic forms, it at length arrives at the point where the water precipitates itself with prodigious noise and velocity, over an abrupt descent in its bed, observing no certain direction, dashed now towards one side, now towards the other, by opposing rocks, vexed with whirlpools, and broken into eddies. In many parts it seems to be bursting through some enormous sluice, while fall beyond fall, covered with foam, and hurling aloft clouds of spray, present themselves in magnificent succession to the eye. Almost in the midst of these, protected by some jutting promontory, we discover smooth expanses of water, unruffled as a summer lake, affording a beautiful contrast with the savage uproar of the cataracts. Meanwhile, the noise of the dashing

water is so loud that the whole region round appears to be shaken by continual thunder, the ears being incessantly filled with this sound, which mingles itself with the conception of what is beheld, and powerfully influences the decision of the judgment. But the principal charm of the landscape consists neither in the savage rocks, nor in the eternal dashing and roar of the waters ; but in that utter solitude, sterility, desolation, which everywhere prevail, and suggest the idea that in all that vast region you alone are breathing the breath of life. This, at least, was the idea which rushed upon my mind, as I looked towards the north and towards the south, towards the east and towards the west, and, except my own companions, beheld no living thing, no habitation or trace of mankind, — the distant village of *Wady Halfa* being hidden by date trees, — and heard no sound but the voice of the river, bursting in monotonous cadence on the ear. Whatever was the cause, I have seldom experienced, in the presence of mere brute matter, emotions more powerful than those I experienced on the rock *Abousir*. Towards the south, beyond the vast extent of the barren desert, were the kingdoms of Dóngola, and Sennaar, and Abyssinia, and the sources of the White River, upon which, circumstances I could in no degree control, compelled me to turn my back. I had now reached the most southern point I was to attain, and could no farther pursue the course of that mighty river which I had followed with increasing interest for more than a thousand miles. Comparatively a few weeks more would have

carried me to its source, and those sunny regions where the rigours of winter are entirely unknown. I regretted to take my farewell of the south, but curbed the vain longing that would have carried me, with the White River, into unknown countries, reserved for the discovery of others more fortunate than I. Next moment, the recollection of Europe, with those whom it contained, turned my thoughts into a different channel, and caused me to look forward with unaccountable pleasure to the descent of the Nile.

CCCLVI. Nevertheless, we wandered about for several hours among the rocks of the cataract, proceeding southward along the edge of the stream. It was a truly wild and extraordinary scene. Piles of dark green or black rocks, smooth, shining, and slippery, over which it was exceedingly toilsome to climb, alternating with small hollows or smooth patches of sand, invisible at a distance, where a few bushes were nourished by the moisture oozing in through the rocks, in many places running in long jetties into the river. One of these little promontories leads out to the brink of the principal fall, and from its extremity, where we sat to view the prospect, we could have put our feet into the whirlpools. In the little sandy hollows above described, we everywhere observed the fresh tracks of the gazelles, which would seem to come hither from the desert in troops, to drink and crop the few green herbs found among the rocks, unscared by the noise of the cataract. Here our little party separated, each wandering as his fancy led him.

I continued to advance towards the south, ascending and descending over the broken crags close to the Nile, admiring the black and green islands, tufted with slender tamarisks, or veined with sparkling sand, and extending north and south as far as the eye could reach, in the midst of the troubled and rapid waters. From the top of one of these eminences, I observed on the very edge of the horizon, towards the south-east, the pointed summit of a vast isolated mountain, and, at a considerable distance westward, another solitary cone, lower and much nearer than the former. Returning northward, I found my companions collecting specimens among the rocks; and having added our names to the list* of those few travellers who have penetrated thus far into Nubia, and left a record of their journey on the foot of the rock *Abousir*, returned to *Wady Halfa*. On the way back we entered a small Greek chapel, built with sun-dried bricks, in the early ages of Christianity. The interior walls are covered with paintings, rude, but in bright colours, which, —so dry and pure is the air, —would have been still perfect, had they not been purposely mutilated

* These names we copied, and I subjoin them here: — 1. Juliana Brooke. 2. J. G. Wilkinson, April 14. 1822. 3. Belmore (Lord) 1817. 4. Dr Richardson. 5. E. J. Cooper, 1821. 6. D. Baillie, Jan. 4. 1819. 7. John Christie. 8. Capt. Armar. 9. Lieut. Carry, R. N. 10. C. Bradford. 11. R. Holt. 12. G. Ducane. 13. W. Graham. 14. J. Brooke. 15. — Ospray. 16. P. Rainier. 17. B. L. Gros. 18. Vidua, 1820. 19. A. Armstrong, 1822. 20. J. Covery. 21. C. Barry, 1819. 22. J. Cook, 1824. 23. J. Hyde, 1819. 24. M. J. Cohen, 1832. 25. J. S. Wiggett, April 23. 1822. 26. Amiro. 27. J. S. Cherubini, 1828. 28. Bolano. 29. Vediapi (A Greek). 30. — Fergusson. 31. T. Greg. 32. H. Baillie. 33. E. Hogg, M.D. 34. Abdallah. 35. V. Monro. 36. J. A. St. John.

by the Mussulmans. On passing the island, south of *Wady Halfa*, an *Ababdé* youth crossed over to meet us, and observed that his father, having learned our desire of proceeding to Dóngola, would be glad, for a moderate sum, to furnish us with dromedaries. As we expressed our readiness to treat with him, he arrived soon after us at our boat, and the price being agreed on, it was arranged that he should be on the eastern bank with the dromedaries, early on the following morning.

Tuesday, January 29th. *Faras*.

CCCLVII. It was late, however, before the *Ababdé* arrived, and, as is usual among barbarians, being utterly regardless of truth, he seemed to have forgotten the arrangement of the preceding evening, and demanded for his beasts a much larger sum, insisting moreover that the whole should be paid in advance. To all this our only answer was, the command to unmoor, and drop down the river; upon which he altered his tone, and consented to abide by the original agreement. The next step was, to try the dromedaries, or rather camels, for they were in reality too heavy, lumbering, and slow, ever to have been used for the saddle. Suleiman mounted the whole number, one after another, but found them so rough that he declared it would be utterly impossible to perform the journey with such animals. Meanwhile, ere our decision was known, a curious scene took place between the *Ababdé* chief and the old Nubian camel-driver, who had followed

the Arabs to the river side. They made a show of quarrelling violently, and fiercely abused each other, the Nubian pretending that the Ababdé was an interloper, who having no right, without his permission, to furnish travellers with camels, was, by undertaking the present journey at an under price, grievously injuring his interests. As we appeared utterly regardless of the affair, the quarrel was dropped; and, shortly after, the old Nubian was busily employed about the camels, arranging the saddles, loosing or tightening the girths, and giving orders to the slaves, so as to convince us of what we had before suspected, that the animals were his own, and the whole quarrel a mere trick to impose upon us. They seemed by no means surprised on finding the camels were considered unfit for the road; but, conscious of the fact, would no doubt have been astonished had their barefaced attempt at imposition succeeded. The Ababdé chief was a fine robust man, about six feet high; and among his followers, nearly all stout muscular men, there were some still taller. Their ordinary arms are large broad-swords; but one of their number, who, probably, was to have been the guide, carried a musket. Their dress resembles that of other Bedouins, excepting a kind of sandal, consisting of a thick sole strapped on the foot with thongs; the sands of the desert, in these latitudes, being probably too much heated to be traversed with the naked foot. Before our departure, the chief came on board to beg a little soap and gunpowder.

CCCLVIII. We now turned the prow of our kandjia homeward, and began to descend the Nile. In retracing our steps, and revisiting places recently beheld, there is doubtless less excitement than when, at every step, the eye is greeted by objects totally new. But, on the other hand, there are many advantages. As no man is proof against the allurements of novelty, the first impressions made upon our imaginations frequently require to be corrected by more mature examination. Both of us found this to be the case. On several points relative to objects we had seen together, our notions were different; and upon the whole we did not regret that the plan of travelling, imposed on us by the nature of the country afforded, could we profit by them, opportunities of greatly reducing the number of errors we might have made. Besides, having prudently taken care to reserve, until our return, many of the principal curiosities and ruins for the sake of which these countries are visited, our enthusiasm had experienced scarcely any abatement. Like individuals who again pass over by day some region previously traversed by the light of the stars or moon, we found, in many cases, the interest and value of the scene increase. Philæ, Eilithyas, Apollinopolis Magna, Thebes, Lycopolis, the site of the Labyrinth, the beautiful Nome of Arsinoë, and the mysterious Lake of Mœris, with many others, yet remained to be explored. Still, therefore, there was novelty; and though I abandoned with regret the design of penetrat-

ing into the regions of Central Africa, there were yet before me monuments more worthy to excite and occupy a rational curiosity than any thing which could possibly be found in countries where civilisation has left no trace of her footsteps.

CCCLIX. In descending the valley of the Nile, every object appeared equally interesting as when first beheld; for the eye, instead of growing weary, had learned to delight in the wild scenery, in which it daily discovered beauties and peculiarities not at first discernible. The increasing heat, moreover, of the days and nights, resembling that of June at Malta or Naples, augmented our pleasure. The sky this evening presented an unusual appearance: small clouds, jet black, or of a fine agate colour, sprinkled over the violet and orange ground of the firmament, imparted an additional beauty to the whole; and the Nile, like an Alpine lake at the same hour, was flushed with a mixture of saffron, pink, and bright rose colour.

CCCLX. It was dark when we reached *Faras*; but having learned that in the neighbourhood there exists a tomb or temple, not hitherto described, we proceeded to the village in search of a guide, accompanied by Suleiman and Bakhíd. *Faras* is situated on the lofty bank of the river, in the midst of a straggling grove of date trees, and sandy mounds; its high walled houses, and clay-built battlements, presenting by moonlight a bold and striking appearance. Here,

only, in Lower Nubia, the hippopotamus is still found. By day he never emerges from the Nile; but when the husbandmen are retired to rest, and a general silence prevails, he rears his huge bulk out of the water, and, ascending the banks, feeds until morning among the corn fields. The villagers seemed to have been long asleep, for there was no sound in the streets, or a light in any window; and we walked about for some time, knocking in vain at several doors; suspicion of our intentions, or other motives, restraining them from answering to our call. At length, however, the pilot, apparently well known in every village from Wady Halfa to Es-Souan, found some one who recognised his voice; and in a few minutes four men came forth, offering to be our guides to the ruins.

CCCLXI. Though the temple, hypogeum, or sepulchre we were in quest of, is situated in the western desert, at a considerable distance from the village, our guides, having been acquainted with the neighbourhood from childhood, could have found their way to the spot blind-fold. The appearance of the desert, always interesting, always new, seemed, on this occasion, more magnificent than ever. On all sides, to the very verge of the horizon, shining sand-hills, partly covered with tamarisks and acacias, roughened the waste, whose interminable surface appeared, in the bright light of a tropical moon, to be covered with a deep fall of snow; and our footsteps, falling noiselessly upon the sand, likewise

favoured the illusion. The splendour also of the stars and moon was indescribably beautiful, recalling to mind the matchless description in the Iliad, where the poet compares with the lights of the firmament the innumerable watch-fires flashing on the Trojan plain.

Οἱ δὲ, μέγα φρονέοντες, ἐπὶ πολέμοιο γεφύρῃ
 Εἶατο παννύχιοι· πυρὰ δὲ σφισι καίετο πολλά.
 Ὡς δ' ὅτ' ἐν οὐρανῷ ἄστρα φαεινὴν ἀμφὶ σελήνην
 Φαίνεται ἀριπρεπέα, ὅτε τ' ἔπλετο νήνεμος αἰθὴρ,
 Ἐκ τ' ἔφανεν πᾶσαι σκοπιαί, καὶ πρόωνες ἄκροι,
 Καὶ νάπαι· οὐρανόνθεν δ' ἄρ' ὑπερράγῃ ἄσπετος αἰθὴρ,
 Πάντα δέ τ' εἶδεται ἄστρα· γέγηθε δέ τε φρένα ποιμήν.*

ΙΛΙΑΔ. Θ. 549—555.

The dusky hollows, the narrow ravines, the white peaks of the sand-hills glittering in the distance, the boundless expanse of the wilderness, the beauty and absolute stillness of the night, unbroken even by the bark of a jackal, were circumstances in strict accordance with the magnificent picture of Homer.

* Which Pope has rendered into English with infinite felicity : —

“ The troops exulting sate in order round,
 And beaming fires illumined all the ground.
 As when the moon, refulgent lamp of night,
 O'er heaven's clear azure spreads her sacred light,
 When not a breath disturbs the deep serene,
 And not a cloud o'ercasts the solemn scene ;
 Around her throne the vivid planets roll
 And stars unnumber'd gild the glowing pole,
 O'er the dark trees a yellow verdure shed,
 And tip with silver ev'ry mountain's head ;
 Then shine the vales, the rocks in prospect rise,
 A flood of glory bursts from all the skies :
 The conscious swains, rejoicing in the sight,
 Eye the blue vault, and bless the useful light.”

CCCLXII. Our guides, wrapped, like Moggrebys, in white burnouses, tripped lightly before us, laughing and talking in a language of which not even my interpreter could comprehend a single syllable. The hour appeared to be a long one : valley, ravine, and sandy plain were successively traversed ; we were already far out in the desert ; and no ruin appeared. When questioned by the pilot, the Nubians replied that we had still some distance to travel. It was late : the suspicion crossed our minds that they had lost their way, in which case we might wander all night in the wilderness in the vain search of so small an object as a temple. They seemed, however, to be perfectly confident in their knowledge, never looking about them, or appearing a jot more at a loss than if they had been travelling over an English highway.

CCCLXIII. At length, after a walk of nearly two hours, we reached a narrow sandy valley, between two low hills ; and here, our guides informed us, was the temple we were in search of. On carefully scrutinising the appearance of the place, however, we could perceive neither wall nor column. It was clear, therefore, that if any structure existed, it must be subterranean ; and accordingly, after a short search, we discovered, in the face of the rocks, evidently smoothed by art, a small triangular opening, leading into the interior of the hill. A light was quickly struck, and while the Nubians, who had no curiosity to gratify, sat down on the sand near the entrance, we crept in, and found ourselves in the chamber of

a tomb. The form and arrangement of the apartments were Egyptian, but neither hieroglyphics nor sculptures were any where visible. In the third chamber a square deep well, of which the bottom was invisible, seemed to lead to a lower suite of apartments; but here, for a moment, our progress was stopped by a singular obstacle. Ten thousand bats, which had been sleeping quietly on the walls, roused and terrified by our lights, disengaged themselves in clouds, and flying about in all directions, struck against our face, breast, head, and hands, threatening to extinguish the tapers. On looking upwards, we saw them clinging by myriads to the roof, all in convulsive motion, with glittering eyes, open mouths, and hideous trembling wings, seeming in their fear to be hanging one to the other, tier below tier. Had they remained there it had been well; but when we approached the mouth of the excavation, they swept so thickly through the air, ascending and descending this grave-like opening, that it was with the greatest difficulty we prevented them from striking the lights out of our hands.

CCCLXIV. In spite of their numbers, however, we contrived to lower ourselves into the well, which we found less deep than we had expected; and proceeding along the narrow passage, arrived in a sepulchral chamber from which four passages diverged. Here we halted, being unable to determine which to select, partly because we apprehended losing ourselves in these subterraneous galleries, of unknown

number and extent, and partly from the prodigious multitude of bats assailing us on every side, flapping their cold wings in our faces, or against the back of our neck. At this moment Suleiman, who was still in the chambers above, exclaimed that they had knocked out his light, and at the same time a cloud of them sweeping by us, extinguished ours also, leaving us all in total darkness in the midst of the tomb. But this by no means quieted our persecutors, who continued flitting about like swarms of bees ; and not being able to direct our footsteps, we moved into the midst of the vermin, which clung and crawled over us with the most disgusting familiarity. Fortunately the attendants had brought flint and steel, so that in a short time the tapers were rekindled, and we continued our examination of the remaining chambers. The walls, roof, and doorway of one small cell towards the north were literally coated with bats, with their mouths open, their wings moving, and their bright little eyes glittering in the light of the taper.

CCCLXV. Through a hole in the wall, about three feet from the floor, in a corner of this cell, but much too small to afford a passage, we discovered another suite of sepulchral chambers ; and in one of the apartments was a mummy pit, into which we possessed no means of descending. Having explored every other part of the sepulchre, without finding either sculpture or hieroglyphics, we returned by the way we had entered ; and in the face of the hill, at a

short distance towards the north, discovered the entrance into the neighbouring tomb, still more obstructed with sand than the former, though the apartments are perhaps of larger dimensions. Several mummy pits of great depth descend to other suites of subterraneous chambers, inaccessible without the aid of long ropes. The heat in all these apartments seemed greater than at *Aboosambal*; and we therefore returned, with considerable pleasure, into the fresh air. Upon the face of the rock, near the entrance to the first tomb, cut in deep large letters, are the names of two Englishmen, Fuller and Foscett.

Wednesday, January 30. *Mosmos.*

CCCLXVI. Early in the morning we landed near those numerous tumuli or barrows, scattered over the plain, on the eastern bank, which, in ascending the river, we had beheld from our cabin door in the twilight. They are all perfectly conical, smooth, and well formed; and, from the summit of the largest, about thirty feet in height, I counted twenty-eight, of different dimensions, none of them very distant from the river. They probably contain bones, vases of silver or gold, arms and other articles usually interred with the dead in remote ages; for this spot was doubtless the scene of some great battle, and these barrows the mausolea raised by the survivors over their fallen chiefs, whose actions they probably commemorated in sculpture and hieroglyphics on the walls of *Aboosambal*, promising them an eternity of glory, not doubting that the sacred symbols would for ever

remain familiar and intelligible to the eye of learning. The basis of the tumuli, and the whole surface of the surrounding desert, are strewn with small agates, and pebbles of various colours.

CCCLXVII. Our provisions growing scanty, we were compelled to make a victualling excursion among the villages. Mutton, as I have already observed, is cheap in this part of Nubia: we here purchased a sheep for seven piastres and a half; and, a few days previous, refused to buy a smaller and leaner one for five piastres. The natives of these villages, particularly the women, stink so abominably, that when they happen to be to windward, we can smell them at the distance of fifty or sixty yards, as keenly as a hound can scent a fox. This, however, must be wholly owing to the enormous quantity of filthy grease and oil with which they saturate their hair, for they would appear to be otherwise not particularly uncleanly. Patches of verdure, intermingled with yellow sand hills, render the approach to *Aboosambal* from the south exceedingly agreeable. The sky, this morning, was covered with light fleecy clouds, a thing extremely unusual in Nubia. The island of *Faras*, which we passed rather early, is, at the southern extremity, a mere sand-bank; but towards the north, rich, well wooded, and carefully cultivated to the water's edge: there is also a hamlet upon it. Arriving about ten o'clock at *Aboosambal*, we again spent several hours at the temples, and quitting it at last with regret, reached *Mosmos* late in the evening.

Thursday, Jan. 31. *Wady el Arab.*

CCCLXVIII. Left our moorings early, and dropped down the river. The wind, which had blown from the north up to our arrival at the second cataract, yesterday shifted to the south, but was so gentle that it aided us little, the whole face of the Nile being as smooth as a pond. A sensible change has taken place in the weather within a few days; in fact, since the scirocco has prevailed, the heat has so greatly augmented, that it is already summer. Passing the castle of *Ibrim*, the position of which, as seen from the river, is certainly most magnificent, in a short time we reached the northern extremity of the island of *Ketteh*, where, according to Burckhardt, there is an ancient sepulchre about two miles from the river. His indication is very loose, and the excellent map of Colonel Leake, constructed, in this part, chiefly from his journal, is here incorrect, fixing the site of the tomb in an isolated hill, and representing the remainder of the country as a plain; whereas, in reality, the desert is thickly strewn with small hills, and at a short distance from the river swells into successive ranges of mountains. One of these chains, running at almost right angles with the Nile, commences about two miles above the island of *Ketteh*, and extends in a westerly direction farther than the eye can reach.

CCCLXIX. The village of *Ketteh* is situated on the eastern bank; but on the opposite side there is another hamlet, called *Atfieh*, half ruined, in the

vicinity of which the Nile is bordered by a narrow belt of cultivation, interspersed with a few date and doum trees. While Monro and myself proceeded across the sand, in the direction mentioned by Burckhardt, Suleiman entered Atfieh in search of a guide. The sun shone exceedingly hot, and my companion, observing the nature of the country, where, without a guide, one might search during a whole month in vain for a tomb, returned to the kandjia. Unwilling, however, to relinquish the undertaking, I continued to advance into the desert, until I had proceeded much beyond the distance mentioned by Burckhardt. There were around me a thousand rocks, each likely as the other to have contained such an excavation; but no opening, no cavern, nothing like an entrance of any kind appeared. Presently I perceived Suleiman following me alone across the sand, the Nubians whom he had questioned, declaring that no tomb existed in the neighbourhood; nor could they be tempted, even by the promise of a good present, to go out in quest of it. Despairing of succeeding without a guide, I reluctantly returned.

CCCLXX. The air, since we have entered Nubia, resembles in its purity and bracing effect that which we breathe on the tops of mountains, or very high table-lands; a circumstance which I never observed in Egypt. The upper part of Nubia must, in fact, be greatly elevated above the level of the sea, as from Wady Halfa to *Es-Souan* the fall of the river is considerable, as is evident from the force and

rapidity of its current, not less than three miles and a half or four miles per hour. We moored for a short time at *Derr*, where a number of women, in the primitive style, were engaged in washing their garments on the bank of the river. They use no soap, but dipping the linen in the water, throw it dripping on the mud, where they beat it with the soles of the feet, as the women in France do with their *batting-staffs*. They were all exceedingly ugly, several having negro features; and, in order to improve these charms, their hair, twisted into small ringlets, had been saturated with castor oil, which, melting in the sun, ran down in yellow streams over their faces. They had each a small hole in the cartilage of the right nostril, in which a small peg of wood was inserted, in the hope of some day supplying its place with a ring. Among their children there was one fair as an European, but ill-favoured as the rest. Observing us, they brought down eggs and fowls for sale; and dire was the clamour arising out of their bargaining with the Arabs. One woman, in particular, lifted up her hands, and shrieked so loudly, that we imagined some person must have been offering her violence, and immediately inquired into the cause of her rage. An Arab, she replied, had taken from her five eggs, and refused payment. As she seemed perfectly in earnest, we demanded and paid her the price; but this was what she calculated on; and now finding that screaming brought in money, she immediately began again shrieking more loudly than before, beating her breast in the

most violent manner. However, her stratagem did not in this instance succeed ; though she continued shrieking and vociferating in her own language as long as we remained. They were all ornamented with necklaces of coloured glass beads, but went bare-headed, and, contrary to what we had observed on our first visit, their clothes were ragged and dirty.

CCCLXXI. It being now *Ramadan*, or “Lent,” among the Mohammedans, most of our crew fast from sunrise to sunset, never even tasting water, or smoking a pipe. Our servants, however, who have conquered this prejudice, as they term it, eat all day, and are regarded by the rigid among their countrymen as no better than Christians ! As soon as the sun disappears in the evening, even before its light is in the least diminished, the fasters rush like wild beasts upon their food, endeavouring to indemnify themselves as quickly as possible for the day’s abstinence. With the rich this is a season of mirth and enjoyment. Literally obeying the injunctions of their Prophet, they eat nothing during the day ; but to render obedience more easy, remain, for the most part, in bed, until sunset ; after which they arise and spend the whole night in feasting and merriment. Story-tellers stroll about from coffee-house to coffee-house, relating their voluminous tales, which often commence with the *Ramadan*, are interrupted every night, and terminate only with the period of the fast. Suleiman, who was an excellent disciple of Sheherazade, entertained me, day after day, with

the Tales of the *Ramadan*, many of them new versions of the Arabian Nights, but infinitely amusing, and never too long.

CCCLXXII. Late in the afternoon we arrived at Korosko, which being the place where the Berber and Sennaar caravans make a halt on entering the cultivated country, we landed to make inquiries among the natives for ostrich plumes, native arms, and other articles from the interior of Africa, frequently to be met with at this village. Close to the river, in front of the village, a Turkish governor, returning from Sennaar to Cairo, was encamped upon the plain, with a great number of attendants and followers, all preparing to bivouac *sub dio*, with their baggage, horses, and camels. Their carpets, saddles, water-sacks, culinary utensils, pipes, and African curiosities, lay scattered upon the ground. At a short distance was a small space surrounded with a white linen enclosure about five feet high, in passing which we observed a number of young black female faces, adorned with crisp curls, peeping over the canvass, their thick lips distended with a smile, and their laughing eyes wantonly rolling; and as soon as we had turned the corner, the whole bevy burst out into peals of laughter. They were no doubt rejoicing at the prospect of entering into the harems of white men, where their whole occupation would consist in the gratification of their own passions, by submitting to those of their masters. From all I have seen or heard of these negresses, there is little doubt that,

were the case fairly put before them, ninety-nine out of every hundred in all Africa would prefer the easy wanton life they lead in the harems of the north, to the estate of toil and poverty in which they grovel in their own country; — I mean, before they become mothers; for when women have borne children, there are comparatively few who would not, for their sakes, submit to the greatest toil and privations. But this view of the matter has nothing to do with the question of slavery, which remains the same, in whatever light it may be considered by wantonness and ignorance.

CCCLXXIII. The village of *Korosko* consists of a few scattered low huts, constructed with small loose stones or clay, roofed with dhourra stalks and palm branches. Several Ababdé and Bisharein Arabs, entirely bareheaded, with their black elf-locks hanging loosely over their shoulders, were seen strolling over the plain. They are generally fine tall men, who, though their features are haggard and savage, have long necks and gracefully formed shoulders, — while the Fellahs and Nubians are distinguished by high shoulders and short bull necks. One fine Ababdé youth I observed walking with the air of an English gentleman, from the camp towards the village, who, notwithstanding his swarthy complexion, was handsome, his features being very regular, and his large black eyes lighted up with much intelligence. Here we saw a specimen of the Nubian or African shield, quite round, with two small notches opposite each

other in the edge, and a high boss in the centre. The wooden frame-work, strong but light, is covered with the skin of some wild beast, dressed like parchment; but the owner could not be tempted to sell it. The villagers possessed a few ostrich feathers, but of an inferior description, gray and short, consequently of little or no value.

CCCLXXIV. Continuing our voyage, we moored in the evening in the *Wady el Arab*. Gazelles are numerous in this part of the valley, and there being a fine moonlight, my companion went on shore in search of them. I also walked forth, but, instead of keeping near the river, where the gazelles are found, ascended the mountains, and followed the track leading into the desert. Nothing could surpass the serenity and beauty of the night, the heavens appearing fuller than usual of stars and constellations, while every thing on earth was still:—

“ River, and hill, and wood,
With all the numberless goings on of life,
Inaudible as dreams.”

The mountains I was engaged in climbing, consist of a mere assemblage of black cavernous rocks, sprinkled at intervals with white sand, and rising abruptly from the ravines and chasms into which their slopes are cleft, in the shape of ruined castles, with bastions, turrets, and battlements. I was desirous of passing over this rocky belt into the smooth sands of the desert, but finding, as I proceeded,

ridge rising behind ridge, higher, steeper, more difficult each than the other, I relinquished the undertaking, and returning slowly to the river, Suleiman, who hated these night rambles, entertained me on the way with numerous stories of the savage ferocity of the Bedouins, by whom I might, he said, be suddenly speared, and never more heard of. The gazelles were this evening restrained by their good genius from descending through this Wady to drink at the river. None appeared.

CHAPTER XX.

TEMPLE OF SEBOUA — ENTER INTO THE ADYTUM — CHRISTIAN PAINTINGS — CHARITY OF BARBARIANS — SKULLS OF THE NUBIANS AND ARABS — EXPOSURE OF THE HEAD CAUSE OF OPHTHALMIA — CLEARNESS OF THE NILE — PURITY OF ITS WATERS — CAUSES OF THIS PURITY — COMPARISON OF THE NILE WITH OTHER RIVERS — TAX ON WATER-WHEELS — TEMPLE OF MEHARRAKA — VIEW OF THE RUINS BY MOONLIGHT — KORTI — SAVAGE DANCE OF THE NUBIANS — RUINED CHAPEL — WADY KOSTAMNI — FORDING THE NILE — VILLAGE CEMETERIES — IGNORANCE OF MEDICINE — VALUE OF PHYSICIANS — GRAVES OF THE NUBIANS — KALABSHI — VIEW OF THE TEMPLE BY MOONLIGHT — HOLES IN THE WALL — BRIGHTNESS OF THE EVENING STAR — KNOWLEDGE OF MONEY — FREEDOM OF THE SOIL FROM WEEDS — RUINS OF A CHRISTIAN CHURCH — THE DATURA — VILLAGE OF THE FISH — DANCE AND SINGULAR MUSIC OF THE NUBIANS — BEAUTIFUL MOONLIGHT VIEW OF THE NILE — ISLAND AND RUINS OF PHILÆ — LEGEND OF OSIRIS.

Friday, Feb. 1. *Dakke.*

CCCLXXV. OUR Arabs setting forward soon after day-break, we reached about nine o'clock the temple of Seboua, where we were desirous of taking a few measurements. On narrowly examining the ruin, a small low opening was found, leading from the large chamber of the cella, — the roof of which has now fallen in, — into the adytum and smaller apartments adjoining. Having forced a way through the sand, we found ourselves in a narrow chamber, extending across the whole breadth of the temple, from which five doors lead to as many apartments, whose walls are covered with hieroglyphics, and the usual figures of the gods. Over these a thick coat of plaster had been laid by the early Christians, who, having

converted the temple into a church, were desirous of effacing "the obscene dread" of Egypt's sons, with the figures of saints and martyrs. On one side of the doorway leading into the adytum is a full-length figure of the Virgin, with a broad glory encircling her head, and on the other, that of St. Joseph. In the adytum is a small niche, occupied by a statue, formerly a pagan idol, whose lineaments have been hammered away, and painted over with those of St. Peter, which are still tolerably fresh. Were the plaster and white lime removed from the walls, the forms and colours of the ancient sculptures would probably be found in a state of high preservation, as, in a few places, where they have already dropped off, the figures are perfect, and the tints extremely bright. In the small side chamber, on the right hand of the adytum, there is a deep sepulchral excavation; but whether the same thing occurs in the corresponding apartment on the left, we were unable to decide, it being nearly filled up with sand. The ceiling is adorned with figures of scarabæi and the sacred vulture. All this part of the temple appears to have been excavated in the rock; the remainder is of masonry.

CCCLXXVI. At *Wady Baardeh*, on the western bank, are the ruins of two stone buildings, one of which displays the remains of a cupola. On both sides of the river the cultivated land is extremely narrow. The kandjia proceeding slowly, we landed about noon on the Arabian shore, and walked for

several miles through fields of wheat and barley, still green. Even here, where wretchedness was apparent in every cot, we found the cool shed and the water-jar by the side of the path for the use of the wayfaring man ; the rational charity of barbarians. A Nubian travelling with a laden ass towards the north, accompanied us for some time. His head was shaven, excepting that important tuft on the crown, by which the angel of death, in the last day, will bear all true believers to paradise ; yet he walked uncovered in the sun, whose heat appeared sufficient to scorch his brain to a cinder. Both in the Nubian and the Fellah the form of the skull indicates but feeble passions. They have small heads, generally, nay, almost universally, with but an inconsiderable portion behind the ears. The forehead, in the Fellah, is low ; in the Nubian high, but ill-formed, projecting over the eyes, as in hydrocephalous persons. Continuous mental labour, commenced in boyhood, probably affects the form of the cranium, and may be one cause of the difference in volume, no less than in shape, observable between the skulls of civilised and savage men. But even among barbarians there is a striking difference. The Greek, the Turk, the Bedouin, have broad lofty foreheads, and skulls of the finest conformation ; while the races above described, and, indeed, all the nations of Africa, together with the Sicilians, the Portuguese, the inhabitants of Southern Italy, the Swiss, the Savoyards, and many other nations of Europe, not wholly destitute of civilisation, have skulls exceedingly ill formed, and a

physiognomy expressive of great feebleness of intellect. Yet, from their proximity to the great seats of civilisation, several of these races have attained a social condition far superior to that of the Bedouins, the Turks, or the Greeks. It can scarcely be doubted that the habitual exposure of the bare skull, tends, as Herodotus has remarked, to harden it exceedingly; but it may possibly, at the same time, produce an injurious effect upon the brain. Dervishes, santons, sanyâsis, yoghis, and other fanatics or vagabonds found in the East, who expose themselves in penance to the sun, if they were not lunatic at the outset, generally become so. Nature, by furnishing the head with a thick covering, suggests the propriety of protecting the brain from the effects of intense heat, and there are few points on which she can be disobeyed with impunity.

CCCLXXVII. This practice would moreover seem to be connected with an evil very common in those countries; I mean ophthalmia. Every day we observe proofs of its ravages. In the *Wady Baardeh*, near a farm house, a young man followed us, begging a little medicine for his father, grievously afflicted with this disease. Unfortunately we possessed none, but advised that the eyes might frequently be washed with warm water. In remedies of this kind, however, they have no faith, but require medicines of miraculous properties, which will effect an instantaneous cure; and such nostrums they seem to be thoroughly persuaded Europeans possess, could they be pre-

vailed upon to administer them. By banishing the *turban*, the best substitute for the hat, Mohammed Ali will probably greatly multiply cases of ophthalmia; for the red cap, now worn, affords the eyes no protection; and in consequence the Arabs are constantly seen with their eyes half shut, or pursed up in a way which quickly produces wrinkles at the corners. I myself, who wore this cap, observed in the *Fayoom*, that my eyes became greatly inflamed, while motes seemed to float before them perpetually; and this continued for several months. The dust, also, which, particularly about Cairo, constantly fills the air, must very much contribute to the prevalence of ophthalmia, in all ages one of the chief scourges of Egypt. Sesostris the Great died blind; his successor, likewise, according to Diodorus Siculus, was afflicted with an ophthalmia that for ten years entirely deprived him of sight; and among the Hermaic books, which, though forgeries, must yet have been of ancient date, we find an entire volume devoted to diseases of the eye.

CCCLXXVIII. The Nile, when we commenced our voyage, was very muddy, but is now become quite clear. Volney, who, however ingenious, was strongly addicted to paradox, speaks disparagingly of its waters, as indeed he does of the country, and nearly every thing it contains. He was probably an admirer of wine; for, had water been his usual beverage, he must quickly have perceived that no river in France,—the only European country with which he was acquainted,

—could be at all compared, in this point of view, with the Nile. The causes of this superiority are susceptible of an easy explanation. In many circumstances, the Nile differs from all other rivers; as, for more than one thousand five hundred miles, it maintains its course alone, without deriving any accession from tributary streams, from its junction with the *Atbara* to the Mediterranean. The lands also through which it flows, are liable neither to falls of snow nor hail, seldom even to rain; its waters receive no taint from the noxious qualities of earths or minerals, except in its immediate channel; the air, pure and serene, generates no unwholesome fogs; while its banks are unpolluted by the filth of any great cities, as it flows, for the most part, through rocky deserts, or over vast expanses of sand. In all this lengthened course, almost constantly exposing to the action of the sun and air a broad surface, it is gradually purified as it advances towards Egypt. During the rainy season, and towards the autumn, when it is filled by torrents from the mountains, in the lower portion of the valley, as well as in Abyssinia, its waters are muddy and unwholesome; and this is the principal unhealthy season in Egypt. Baron Larrey and others, apparently confining their views to Cairo and its environs, have supposed fevers and dysentery chiefly to prevail in the spring; but, although the stagnant waters of the Khalish, and other half-dried canals and ponds, exert a deleterious influence upon the air, in the months of March and April, the mortality is not then so great, in the country generally, as in

October and November. But to return to the river. The world furnishes examples of many small streams which, from the peculiar nature of the countries they traverse, are, after a short course, entirely absorbed, without reaching the sea. The Nile consists of too vast a body of water to be thus lost ; but it enlarges as we ascend, being broader at *Siout* than at *Cairo*, broader at *Thebes* than at *Siout* ; and from *Thebes* to *Wady Halfa*, its volume, though constantly increasing, continues apparently the same. This peculiarity is accounted for, by the immense quantity turned off and exhausted in irrigation ; and when the *Bahr Youssouf*, the *Moyé Soohaj*, and other great canals, were kept in good repair, the Nile must have been still more diminished towards its embouchure. The contrivance of Mœris, therefore, by which, if it ever existed, the lower part of the river was replenished during six months of the year, from the vast reservoir in the Nome of Arsinoë, was by no means a work of supererogation.

CCCLXXIX. In Nubia, as well as in Egypt, the *Sakias*, or water-wheels, are an important source of revenue, each paying annually the sum of twenty dollars, or four pounds sterling, which the people regard as a grievous tax. Being poor, miserable, and too ignorant to discover the real causes, they attribute their sufferings to this particular impost ; and have, I find, been in the habit, from the period of the Turkish conquest, of complaining of their hardships to travellers, who seem to have considered

the recital more vexatious than they do the grievances themselves. But when mankind are wretched, they naturally seek to excite sympathy ; and those persons who do not deserve to exchange conditions with them, will patiently listen to their complaints, however tedious.

CCCLXXX. Shortly after sunset we reached the *Wady Meharraka*, and landing about a mile south of the temples, proceeded towards them across the sands. The light of the moon, stronger than that of the declining day, imparted to the ruins a soft and picturesque aspect. The principal building* is a small hypæthral temple, walled round on three sides, with a row of six columns in front, united at the bottom by a mural skreen. The colonnade, roofed with large blocks of stone, extending round the interior, originally contained sixteen pillars, seven feet in circumference, two of which, at the eastern end, have been overthrown. Those now erect stand on a low square pedestal, and their capitals consist of a cluster of palm leaves, variously arranged. A small staircase in the north-east corner leads to the roof ; but the whole is in a very dilapidated state, the temple having apparently been destroyed by an earthquake, that rent the walls, now parting and ready to fall ; while the enormous slabs of the terrace in front were at the same time wrested out of their places, and thrown on their edges. There are no sculptures ; but on one of

* Its dimensions are, — *length*, 56 feet 6 inches : — *breadth*, 44 feet. Its face is towards the south.

the front columns are several Greek inscriptions, not legible by moonlight. On the fragment now remaining of the temple or chapel which formerly stood near, I could discover neither hieroglyphics nor sculpture.

CCCLXXXI. Dropping down the river to *Korti*, we, in the dark, proceeded two or three miles beyond the ruins, which, as Sir Frederic Henniker has very justly observed, are little worth the trouble of visiting. The village, though long and straggling, is, perhaps, one of the largest in Nubia. According to custom, the natives were making merry. In a court-yard, squatting on their hams, smoking and gossiping, we found a number of men, three of whom undertook to be our guides. Numerous parties of young women were assembled in front of their huts, dancing naked round large fires, by the light of the moon, encircled by their neighbours, men, women, and children, seated on their heels, clapping their hands, singing and laughing at their performances. On our near approach, however, the greater number took to flight, but, after the first alarm was over, many returned, relinquishing their amusements to follow us; so that by the time we reached the ruin the party resembled a small caravan. The chapel, chiefly remarkable as having, during so many centuries, escaped being overwhelmed, is extremely small and insignificant, consisting of only two chambers, entirely destitute of ornament, with the exception of the winged globe over the doorway. The Nubians were exceedingly amused at seeing us examine the interior and the

ornaments of the frieze by candlelight ; and formed, no doubt, a very extraordinary opinion of our pursuits. On returning, they accompanied us a considerable distance. Having ceased to be apprehensive of these people, none of us carried any arms ; though in Middle Egypt, particularly about the Bird Mountains, to venture unarmed a hundred yards from the boat, even by day, would be unsafe. Moored at *Dakke*.

Saturday, Feb. 2. *Kalabshi*.

CCCLXXXII. The progress of vegetation is here so rapid that the whole face of the country seems totally changed since we ascended. Corn, then green, was now turning yellow, and many spaces at present covered with luxuriant verdure, were then bare. Landing on the Arabian side of the *Wady Kostamni*, we proceeded to that point where the Nile is fordable in May, and where, in 1812, the Mamalooks, in retreating towards Dóngola, are said to have crossed on horseback to the western bank, with their harems and baggage. Here the mountains project westward to the edge of the river in numerous rocky promontories, between which the plain widens, and in some parts is carefully cultivated ; in others, extensive fields lie neglected through lack of hands, most of the young able-bodied men having been drafted off to serve in Syria : on these spots the sands were already settling, and the prickly plants, peculiar to the desert, springing up. We passed by a small aqueduct, about three feet in height, constructed partly of stone, and partly of clay, which, extending

along the plain for the space of more than half a mile, formerly spread fertility around. In these walks we encountered few people ; not more than three or four men during the whole day ; with one poor girl proceeding among the rocks to some neighbouring hamlet.

CCCLXXXIII. The village cemeteries are extensive, and the numerous head and foot stones, recently set up, bear testimony to the ravages of death in this country. Perhaps the number may have been greatly augmented by the *cholera morbus*, which, last year, in Egypt alone, is supposed, at the lowest computation, to have carried off one hundred thousand persons. But in these countries, where medicine is unknown, many diseases prove fatal, which with us are capable of cure. The small-pox, when it appears, sweeps thousands into the grave. Ulcers, wounds, fractures, nay, sometimes, a slight contusion, or a scratch, neglected, becomes incurable, and terminates in mortification and death. Affectation or ignorance, borrowing the aid of wit, may, in civilised countries, convert the physician and his art into objects of ridicule ; but here an honest and able practitioner would be regarded almost as a god. And what, in Europe, has been the cause that, in proportion as knowledge and civilisation have advanced, mortality has so strikingly diminished? Unquestionably, improvement in the science and practice of medicine and surgery, have mainly contributed to produce this result. At all events, there is no one who ever travelled through these countries, and observed the

effects of ignorance and barbarism among the wretched population, who has not at the same time earnestly desired to bequeath to them in parting the art of combating disease, and assuaging corporeal suffering. The Nubians, in burying their dead, make use of no coffins. The corpse, dressed in an under garment, and covered with a kind of winding-sheet, is laid in the grave, with the arms stretched by the side. A row of stones being piled up on either hand, to the height required by the body, a number of small slabs are laid across, so as to form over it a kind of vault. After this the sand is cast in, and a small oblong mound raised over the grave, at either end of which a stone is set up, exactly as in our own country churchyards. These cemeteries seem never to be enclosed by a wall; yet the pious sentiment with which mankind, in every stage of society, regard the dead, protects the humble grave from the foot of the passenger. No particular mark seems here to distinguish the tumuli of women from those of their fathers or husbands; nor, in any instance, did I observe either flowers or funereal plants cast upon the mounds; such tokens of remembrance belonging, perhaps, to a more advanced stage of civilisation.

CCCLXXXIV. The prevalence of a strong north wind, attended by heavy clouds, which more than once appeared to threaten rain, greatly retarded our progress during the whole of this day. The aid of the current at such times is almost of no value, for little or no way can be made; the oars are rendered

useless by the tossing of the waves, and tracking is slow and laborious. The better mode is, to abandon the kandjia to the river, reserving the strength of the men until night, when the wind dies away. Meanwhile, we float at the pleasure of the Nile, sometimes head, sometimes side, sometimes stern foremost, turning round and round like a tub. It was late in the evening when we arrived at *Kalabshi* ; but the clouds having in a great measure been dispersed by the winds, the moon afforded sufficient light to enable me once more to enjoy the sight of the ruins.

CCCLXXXV. Accompanied by my interpreter and the Nubian pilot, I landed at the entrance to the village. A narrow winding path, between walls of loose stones and low hovels, built with the same material, conducted us to the temple. Most of the inhabitants had retired to rest, though in a few huts there were still lights and voices. The moon being nearly vertical, caused few shadows, and those less distinctly and sharply defined than in our northern latitudes. The lofty propylon and massive walls of the temple, towering far above every thing around, appeared in the serenity and stillness of night far more solemn and magnificent than by day. Egyptian architecture is, indeed, admirably adapted for producing a sublime effect by moonlight ; its vast unbroken masses, continuous lines, and regular projections, its lofty propylæa and huge columns, appearing in such a light to expand and multiply. Entering the great gateway, we scrambled with considerable difficulty across the

dromos to the doors of the dark chambers on the left. In our former visits, the entrance into the interior of the propylon had been overlooked, but was now discovered in the south-east corner, completely masked by vast blocks of stone fallen from the roof of the colonnade. By the aid of a fragment of the cornice and some small projections in the fallen stones, I descended with my Arab into the passage below ; but the Nubian, looking down the dark crevices with superstitious horror, declared he would not enter for twenty dollars. The narrow staircase leading to the roof is lighted up in the daytime by small loopholes, scarcely visible externally. In one of these I observed a small reptile, not unlike a scorpion, which, as the light struck upon it, dropped from the wall, and hid itself among the dust.

CCCLXXXVI. Continuing to ascend the staircase, still in perfect preservation, and scarcely at all encumbered with rubbish, we arrived at the first chamber, about twenty-five feet in length, by twelve or fourteen in breadth, lighted by the same contrivance as the staircase. In the walls, entirely devoid of sculpture, are five or six deep niches, formerly, perhaps, used as cupboards, if these apartments, as it appears very probable, were inhabited by the priests. We now ascended to the second story, to an apartment exactly similar, from the northern extremity of which a doorway, now blocked up with fallen stones, originally led to the roof of the gateway. Over this was yet a third chamber, at present unroofed. Our

tapers, and the voice of the Arab, shouting to the Nubian in the court below, roused the village dogs, and I foresaw we should presently have company. On the top of the propylon, on the sides of the staircase, and at the bottom of the niches above-mentioned, I observed the grooves whence the metal clamps, which in these structures supplied the place of mortar, had been removed. Indeed, the holes made by the natives in this operation are on all sides visible in the face of the walls. Similar apertures in the Coliseum at Rome have given rise, among antiquarians, to various absurd theories; some regarding them as the work of the early Christians, to deface the building; others supposing they were intended to receive the poles of a scaffolding; while a third party maintain them to have been meant to facilitate the laying on of a coat of stucco. I pretend not to decide between them; but in the Nubian temples no room is left for doubt, as the holes constantly occur where the metal clamps were to be found, and nowhere else. Descending into the dromos, we proceeded towards the interior. Through a rent in the wall, the evening star was visible from the great gateway, and when first beheld, had, from its extraordinary brightness, the appearance of a brilliant lamp burning among the ruins. We next walked round the exterior of the building. It seems quite clear that here, as well as at Dakké, the cella and pronaos are of a much more ancient date than the propylon, the colonnade in the dromos, and the long walls, which, prolonged from this colonnade,

surround the cella, leaving a narrow passage between. At the back of the building, the mountain, scarped and smoothed like a wall, forms a part of the general enclosure ; and a spacious chamber, with a doorway adorned in the usual style, has been excavated in the rock. A Nubian, with several boys from the village, had by this time joined us, each asking for a present. Belzoni, a few years before, found them ignorant of the value of piastres ; but in this respect their knowledge is greatly enlarged, for nothing was now so welcome to them as money, though, to do them justice, they were neither so impudent nor so importunate as the *Fellahs*.

Sunday, Feb. 3. *Philæ*.

CCCLXXXVII. Early in the morning we resumed our usual walk. The barley, in growth most luxuriant, was entirely free from weeds ; a circumstance attributable to the exceeding dryness of the soil, in which nothing will grow but what is sown and watered ; though of such things they may have a constant succession of crops throughout the year. Excepting the low sloping bank, the country in this part consists entirely of irrigated, not inundated land, and produces tobacco, cotton, corn, the castor-oil plant, kidney beans, and lupines. Date trees are but thinly scattered. Passed the ruins of Taphis and Kardassi. At the latter place, besides the ruin formerly described, four columns of a portico are still standing. About two leagues south of *Debóde*, according to our pilot, there is a small island, not marked in the maps,

called *Geziret el Múrkús*, consisting of an agglomeration of masses of black granite, with numerous tamarisk trees growing in the crevices. Its aspect is particularly wild and striking, the rocks being piled in a confused irregular manner upon each other, and their rude summits crested by the ruins of a lofty square tower and a Christian church, with several pointed arches in the walls. Around its base the Nile runs in a rapid stream, interrupted in many places by sunken rocks, rendering navigation dangerous. With respect to distances, it is difficult, in these countries, to obtain precise information; the inhabitants denominating the space between one village and another “a league,” whether it be near or far; and to the question, “How far is it to such a place?” they frequently reply, — “The smoking of a pipe;” meaning, that you might reach it while a pipe of tobacco is consuming.

CCCLXXXVIII. Passed two small boats, the one descending into Egypt with dates, the other coming from Es Souan. At the foot of the rocks on the Eastern bank, we found the *Hyoscyamus Datúra* of Linnæus; a rare plant described by Forskål, in his “*Flora Ægyptio-Arabica*,” of which we saw but one specimen in Nubia. Its properties being little known to the natives, they sometimes crop and eat of the flowers, which cause a deathlike stupor, that usually endures twenty-four hours. It was, perhaps, from this plant that the Nubians, in the time of Leo

Africanus, extracted the deadly poison, which, according to his description, must have equalled prussic acid in virulence. On the western bank, near Debóde, are the ruins of *Beled es Samak*, or the "Village of the Fish," for whose desertion, the Nubians give the following reason:—Some ages ago, they say, there appeared in the river, directly opposite, a large fish, which the inhabitants were desirous of taking. One man after another, therefore, went forth in the hope of destroying it; but the fish rising suddenly, caught the angler in his mouth, and disappeared with him beneath the water; and thus the whole village was depopulated. Being ignorant of the real causes, and too indolent to investigate them, they amuse themselves in this way with tales. But like the deserted towns of *Ibrim* and *Kalat Addé*, the village stands on the summit of a barren hill, overlooking the river; and having been erected there in troublesome times, on account of the strength of the position, was afterwards abandoned, when the country became more tranquil. In this part of the valley the natives prepare a kind of soup with the flower of the lupine (in Arabic *sherangheg*), which is eaten with bread. The bean also, pounded into a coarse meal, is used in thickening soup, or boiled and eaten alone. Opposite Debóde is a small sandy island, cultivated about the centre, and diversified by a few tamarisk trees.

CCCLXXXIX. Shortly after dark, we arrived opposite a large island on the African side of the river,

separated however from the main land only during the inundation. As the kandjia approached the shore, we heard the sound of the Nubian tambourine, accompanied, at intervals, by a shrill, whistling noise, and loud bursts of merriment. Concluding, therefore, that all the rank and fashion of the neighbourhood must be assembled under some tree, or round a fire, we were desirous of witnessing, before our departure, the saltatorial performances of the Nubian beauties. But as our sudden appearance would certainly put them all to flight, our herald, *Bakhid*, was sent forward with the olive branch to propose a truce; and at his intercession they consented to our beholding their revelry. We found the party assembled on a small open space between the rocks at the foot of the mountains, partly shaded by tall trees; the moon supplying the place of lamps and tapers. The dancers consisted of a youthful bride and her sister, whose relations and neighbours were met to celebrate with dances and songs the approaching marriage. The bride was about fourteen years old, her sister about twelve; and, contrary to what we had observed at Korti, both were clothed from head to foot. Nothing could be more different from the impudent movements of the Almé, than their modest and not ungraceful manner of dancing; the slow step, and easy turns of which, somewhat resembled a quadrille. The rest of the company, ranged in a circle round the dancers, saluted and made room for us on our approach. They consisted of men and women; some of the latter of extraordinary stature, and half naked,

with children at the breast. Their only music consisted of the tambourine, beaten by a man ; but the whole circle, clapping their hands, and bending their knees, kept time with the instrument ; while the women at intervals uttered a strange tremulous shriek, called by the Arabs *zagharit**—somewhat resembling the sharp notes of the fife, but so loud that it seemed to pierce the brain. In producing this extraordinary noise, the tongue is rolled in the mouth, while the voice, thus modulated, is raised to a higher pitch than I had previously conceived possible ; and when a number of persons join together in this infernal concert, the shriek is most terrific.† Our Arabs, never backward when mirth and laughter were on foot, immediately fell into the circle, shouting, clapping hands, and bending the knee with the rest ; and the revellers, thus reinforced, proceeded with redoubled vigour. Song after song was sung,

* Mengin, who was accustomed to these sounds, describes them as, — “ Roulemens précipités de la langue, par lesquels les femmes donnent des intonations élevées qui expriment, suivant les modulations, la joie ou la douleur. On les entend dans les fêtes de même que dans les pompes funèbres.” — *Hist. de l’Egypte, &c.* ii. 305.

† Dr. Buchanan, in his *Christian Researches*, speaks of a similar sound among the circumstances attending the orgies of Jaggannat’h. “ And the multitude again sent forth a voice ‘ like the sound of a great thunder. — But the voices I now heard, were not those of melody or joyful acclamation ; for there is no harmony in the praise of Moloch’s worshippers. Their number, indeed, brought to my mind the countless multitude of the Revelation ; but their voices gave no tuneful hosanna or hallelujah ; but rather a yell of approbation, united with a kind of hissing noise. I was at a loss how to account for this latter noise, until I was directed to notice the women ; who emitted a sound like that of whistling, with the lips circular and the tongue vibrating ; as if a serpent would speak by their organs, uttering human sounds.” Page 25.

the musician thumped the tambourine, the dancers quickened their pace, while shouts, jesting, and laughter mingled with the clapping, the singing, and the drumming ; so that a stranger, coming unawares upon the scene, would have taken us for a group of infernal spirits, performing their gambols in the wilderness. The moon, then near the full, yielded a brilliant light, silvering the surface of the river, and casting a flood of splendour over the rocks and sands. But the beauties of the scene were nothing, viewed apart from the swarthy assembly, who, whatever cares or troubles they might have known, had now cast them to the winds. Joy presided over the moment. Nor did they seem, like the duller Egyptians of old, to require the sight of a mimic corpse to enforce the wisdom of enjoying the present hour. This spectacle detained us longer than we had anticipated ; but at length it became necessary to depart, though not without adding a few piastres to the fortune of the bride.

CCCXC. On returning to the kandjia, we threw open our windows to enjoy the scenery. Never did the Nile appear so beautiful. Glittering like molten silver beneath the moon, it seemed to stretch away interminably towards the west, among numerous islands and steep pyramidal rocks, which, rising to a great height, threw their mingling shadows over its calm surface, concealing its extent, and creating the appearance of a vast lake. Nothing in all Switzerland, on which at the moment my thoughts were

dwelling, could exceed in grandeur or beauty this magnificent reach of the Nile; which seemed to realise all that poetry has feigned of fairy-land,—a paradise of rocks and waters, sprinkled with the splendid vegetation of the south, wrapped in unbroken silence, and lighted up by a moon and stars of inexpressible brightness. I lost sight with regret of its unrivalled beauties, escaping one after another from the eye, as the boat glided rapidly down the stream, through the same splendid scenery, all the way to *Philæ*, where we arrived late in the night.

CCCXCI. Mooring, as on the former occasion, close under Pharaoh's Bed, we immediately landed, to enjoy the beauties of the island. Travelling is certainly attended by many pleasures; but among the calmest and purest it can furnish, I would enumerate the prospect of *Philæ* by moonlight. The same objects that wear the appearance of monotony in description, maintain an untiring interest in the arrangement of Nature—so superior is the cunning of her hand! Here were the same rocks, the same river, the same moon and sky, which an hour before had so strongly affected our imagination: but what a novel aspect they now wore, and what numerous accessaries had crept in, to give a new character, and additional splendour to the landscape! Art had here laboured, and not in vain, to render nature itself more picturesque. Propylæa, obelisks, long colonnades, innumerable figures of gods, reflected from the surrounding waters, and touched with soft light

by the moon, divided our admiration with the giant crags and distant desert, encompassing a large portion of the scene like a cloud ; while the only sound heard was the sullen monotonous roar of the distant cataract. Standing on the summit of the Great Temple, whence the prospect is replete with grandeur, I suffered my imagination to wander back to past ages ; when the roof now under my feet had echoed to the yells of pagan orgies, while the whole island and sacred stream were covered with priestly worshippers, engaged in sanguinary or obscene rites, suggested by irregular passions, unmindful or ignorant of the true God, and the pure worship which he requires. This was the most holy spot in the dominions of Egypt, where their mythological legends placed the tomb of Osiris ; and when they desired to give peculiar emphasis and solemnity to an oath, they swore by Him who slept in *Philæ*.

CCCXCII. Let us descend into the vaults of the temple. Kindling a taper, and casting a hurried glance over the sekos, we proceeded to explore those tomb-like recesses and subterranean passages, the intention and use of which defeat conjecture. The most remarkable of these cells we discovered in the thickness of the eastern wall. Its mouth resembled that of a mummy pit ; but, the depth not being too great, we descended one after another ; and proceeding in a northerly direction, arrived in a short time at the termination of the passage, where our progress appeared to be stopped. On more narrowly examining

the appearance of the place, however, we perceived in the ceiling a small aperture, through which a man might ascend by standing on another's shoulders. In this way we mounted, pulling after us the tall Arab, who had served as a ladder. At the southern extremity of this second passage, a similar aperture conducted to the next story ; and ascending thus through a succession of passages, we at length reached the termination, where we found that the whole apparently led to nothing. But this I cannot suppose to be the case. So secret and curious an arrangement must, doubtless, have had an object, and may probably lead to some concealed chamber or cell, in which the tomb of Osiris — at least what was so denominated by the Egyptian priests — still exists. These narrow corridors, which receive light through small loopholes, contain several deep niches, but no hieroglyphics or sculpture of any kind.

Monday, Feb. 4. *Philæ.*

CCCXCIII. The ruins of Philæ have been often described ; but, as my own account may stand in need of the reader's indulgence, I shall abstain from criticising the descriptions of others. It would, however, appear, that the object has been to excite astonishment, by investing the confused mass of buildings, which crowd the surface of the island, with a factitious air of grandeur. An obelisk of sandstone, exhibiting not a single sacred character, has been converted into granite, and covered with hieroglyphics. Buildings wholly distinct and independent

have been shuffled out of their places, and ranged anew, in order to flank an imaginary court in front of the great temple. And, indeed, so much confusion, hypothesis, and conjecture, have been introduced into the description of the temple itself, that it is sometimes impossible to comprehend it on the spot. To avoid incurring the same blame, I shall observe, that in front of the principal structure, but entirely unconnected with it, are the ruins of several other edifices. The great temple, which requires to be first noticed, consists, at present, of a large propylon, a dromos, a smaller propylon, a pronaos, a cella, and an adytum. The principal propylon, measuring one hundred and twenty-three feet in length by fifty-six feet in height, is of a very modern date, and was erected over a smaller edifice of the same kind, which now forms the doorway, and is distinctly visible in the façade. On this ancient part, the bas-reliefs are small and highly finished; but those on the modern addition, where even the stone is of an inferior description, are of gigantic proportions, rudely designed, and coarsely executed; contrary to what is generally observed in Egyptian sculpture, where the colossal only exhibits taste or vigour. The first group among the sculptures, beginning on the east, is the representation of a human sacrifice; a subject which the Egyptians seemed to have been never tired of repeating. A figure of gigantic proportions grasps by the hair thirty individuals of the ordinary size, whose heads are arranged so as to form a kind of triangle, and brandishes an axe, about to descend

upon their necks ; while the sacred hawk, animated with the prospect of prey, hovers over the weapon, — it is in fact probable, that the vulture and other carnivorous birds, maintained in these temples where human victims were sacrificed, were habitually regaled with the flesh, — but Isis advancing, appears to command the suspension of the rites. The same group, with some variations, is repeated on the western wing.

CCCXCIV. On the right side of the great central gateway, is the following inscription, commemorating the flight of the Mamalooks into Nubia, before the division of the French army commanded by Désaix. “ L’an VI. de la République, 13 Messidor, une armée Française, commandée par Bonaparte, est descendue à Alexandrie. L’armée ayant mis vingt jours après les Mamalouks en fuite aux Pyramides, Désaix, commandant la première division, les a poursuivis au-delà des cataractes, où il est arrivé le 13 Ventose, de l’an VII.” At the foot of this inscription are the names of Generals Belliard, Latournerie, and others, to which the sculptor has added his own.

CCCXCV. Entering the dromos, we discover, at its northern extremity, a second propylon, masking the temple ; and on the right hand a colonnade of ten pillars with various capitals, in front of a suite of small dark apartments, some sculptured, others plain, which are denominated the “ Sultan’s House.” On the left, or western side, is a small ancient temple,

nearly peripteral, the pillars on whose eastern side, seven in number, form a colonnade, answering in some respects to that on the right. East of the entrance into the pronaos, is a small chapel, now nearly ruined, projecting into the dromos, at the back of which a vast block of granite, springing from the rock on which the temple stands, forms a part of the wall; but the junction has been coarsely effected, though, probably, the interstices were originally filled up with stucco. The portico is adorned with ten columns, with varied, but beautiful capitals; the foliage in some being of the doum, in others of the date tree, exquisitely painted in the most brilliant colours. They are arranged like a peristyle round a small square court, which, from a number of holes in the edge of the cornice, apparently meant to contain hooks, was probably sometimes covered with an awning. The columns are covered with extraordinary figures, among which we remarked a priest stabbing two human victims, before Thoth Ibiocephalus, who in one hand bears the emblematic sceptre of power, and in the other the symbol of eternal life. Before the same god, two other priests are immolating a goose and a serpent. On the shaft of another pillar, is a bull in full career, with the moon between his horns, and the symbol of eternal life suspended by a fillet round his neck. The figures of Cynocephali, observed in various parts, are always represented with a tail. On the roof, near the north-east corner, are three figures of Venus Urania, with outstretched arms and legs, one within another.

CCCXCVI. The sekos is divided into numerous apartments and small cells, the whole covered with sculpture, once gorgeously painted, but now mutilated and blackened by time. In a small chamber on the west, from which the staircase ascends to the roof, Isis and Osiris are represented in an eminently obscene position. The adytum contains several very extraordinary figures, making offerings of vases, &c. to the lotus, and clad in the thong apron of the Nubian girls, which seem to be intended for hermaphrodites, as they have the beards of men, with the long hanging breasts of the Egyptian women. In the compartment above these is Isis standing upright, suckling the boy Horus, who, already nearly as tall as his mother, wears upon his head a mitre adorned with rams' horns. A female figure, a little in the rear, bears the sceptre of the goddess and the symbol of divinity. Here an ancient granite altar, removed from its basis, lies half overwhelmed among heaps of rubbish.

CCCXCVII. Ascending to the roof, we find a small and highly curious chamber, on the walls of which, amid a great variety of other subjects, all perhaps connected with each other, but no longer intelligible, is a representation of the death, embalming, and funeral of Osiris, inconsistent in the whole detail with the fable attributing his murder to Typhon. The god is represented dying in his bed, surrounded by his family, who receive his last breath, and close his eyes. Everything in these sculptures

favours the system of Euhemerus, which teaches that the pagan heaven was peopled from earth. Priests and pretended philosophers, ashamed, in more enlightened ages, of the literal explanation of their religious fables, cast over them the pompous veil of symbol, unknown to their rude and ignorant ancestors, the inventors of the *mythi*. Osiris was then transformed into the sun, the vivifying principle, the Nile; Isis into the moon, the dog-star, nature, the land of Egypt; and a thousand interpretations, astronomical, astrological, physical, symbolical, mystical, were given of their history and adventures.

CCCXCVIII. But to proceed with the bas-reliefs. In the first compartment Osiris, extended on a couch, with uplifted hands, is yielding up the ghost. He has doffed his pompous mitre, but the serpent, the emblem of kingly power, ever ready to inflict injury, still sits upon his brow. At his head is Athor, whose mitre is surmounted by a small pillar, while Isis, attended by a female on her knees, bends over the foot of the couch; and all raise their hands towards heaven, in the attitude of lamentation. In the next compartment we find him dead, and the embalmers, — the more horrid part of their operations performed, — engaged in swathing and bandaging the corpse. The form of the propylon of a temple then occurs, with the figure of a lion over the central opening, his hind-feet on one wing, his fore-feet on the other. Beneath this the god would seem to have been carried in the first step of his apotheosis. Osiris

now appears, his face covered with a hawk-headed mask, stretched upon a bier, and borne into a temple by priests. Here the body is removed from the bier, and while the priests are preparing to convey him into the secret chambers, the hawk-headed mask is removed, and the mysterious figure of Anubis approaching, touches his lips with the symbol of divinity, while Isis and Athor kneel, weeping at his head and feet. The mummy is next represented, lying in state, in a large dark chamber, with twenty-seven tapers or torches burning beside it, while a priest approaches, the new-made god with an offering. So far the events commemorated may be supposed to have taken place in Egypt, where the funereal judges, deluding the multitude with a mockery of justice, as in the case of their subsequent kings, may have sat in judgment on the mummy, and tried its pretensions to the honours of burial. The trial concluded, the body is again laid on the bier, overshadowed by a rich canopy, and placed in a boat, to be conveyed to its everlasting abode in *Philæ*. Ten paddles, curiously wrought, and adorned with the figures of birds, in the hands of an equal number of priests, impel along the funereal barge ; four serving as a rudder ; while Isis stands on the shore, beholding its departure. Three of the pillars of the canopy are adorned with the figures of hawks, bearing globes on their heads ; the fourth is surmounted by a human figure. Arrived at *Philæ*, the mummy, now adorned with the mitre, or crown of the god, is laid on the tomb, on four sepulchral jars, on which are represented the heads of

the hawk, the wolf, the dog, and the monkey; while Aroëris Hierax and Ammon Criocephalus stand, the former at the head, the latter at the feet of the mummy. The sacred tomb, excavated, perhaps, in the rock below, and approached by mysterious passages, now closed, may be discovered by some future traveller.

CCCXCIX. The small peripteral temple, on the left of the dromos, is approached by a separate doorway in the western wing of the propylon; and this, like the ancient chapel at *Dakke*, seems originally to have been a beautiful simple structure, adorned, in the best style of the Egyptians, with frieze, moulding, and projecting cornice, and richly sculptured both within and without with the figures of gods. The colonnades and the portico, containing four pillars, —those in front built up half way, —appear to have been added in a later age, when architecture was on the decline. Though executed in a superior style, the bas reliefs exhibit little variety; —Osiris, Horus, Priapus, in the usual attitudes, and with their characteristic costume and ornaments. Among the most remarkable is a goddess crowned with lotus flowers, playing on a harp with nine strings, before Isis and Harpocrates seated on thrones. The harp, formed like the lunar crescent, is adorned above with a head of Isis; and this group occurs on both sides of the temple. In the adytum, the interior of which is divided into three chambers, we find Isis sitting

on a platform, with her legs under her in the modern oriental fashion, suckling Horus; while the sacred hawk, crowned with a mitre, and surrounded by lotus stems branching outward like rays, hovers over her head. On the left of the goddess, an immense serpent rises in spiry volumes; while on the opposite side, a group, representing another serpent twisted about a tree, with a worshipper on either side of him, resembles Adam and Eve beside the tree of knowledge. Various inferior divinities are depicted approaching the great goddess in procession.

CCCC. Of the several ruins in front of the temple it is difficult to convey a correct idea, the whole being much too imperfect to allow of our deciding what they were. At the southern extremity of the island is a small sandstone obelisk, containing on one of its faces a Greek inscription, but no hieroglyphics; and the pedestal of a similar obelisk stands at the distance of a few yards towards the east. Close to the one now remaining, is a row of six columns, covered with hieroglyphics and sculpture. Here commences a long colonnade, which may have served the priests as a promenade, extending northward along the shores, with a narrow staircase leading down to the water, and numerous windows commanding a view of the river and the opposite mountains. Thirty of the columns, and ten windows, still remain; but the work was never completed, — some of the shafts being sculptured, others

not. Exactly opposite this colonnade, towards the east, is the façade, of a large edifice, adorned with sixteen columns, surmounted by square plinths, the capitals of which were also left unfinished. These pillars had no reference to the Great Temple, but mark the front of one wing of a spacious building, the walls of which may be traced for sixty-four feet towards the east. Several of the chambers are still standing; and the foundations are visible thirty-four feet south of the colonnade; but without clearing away the rubbish, nothing like a ground plan can be made out.

CCCCI. The building on the eastern side of the island, known by the name of Pharaoh's Bed, and for this reason supposed by some writers to be the tomb of Osiris, seems to be the most modern structure in *Philæ*. It has fourteen lofty columns, arranged round the sekos of the temple, with the intercolumniations built up half way; and, on account of its great height, forms a very striking object; but seems to have been never completed; in fact, to cover it above, blocks of stone forty-eight feet six inches in length would be required. The only inhabitant of the island, at the time of our visit, was *Selyma*, an old woman, jocularly denominated by the Arabs, "the Queen of *Philæ*," who, upon the strength of this title, demands from travellers a small present; and as she possesses a cow, her right to furnish them with milk at her own price is seldom disputed.

CCCCII. In the afternoon we passed over to the neighbouring island of *Biggé*, where there also exist a few small and insignificant remains of antiquity. A Nubian family, of which the Queen of *Philæ* appears to be a member, inhabits this island, where they lead a life of great seclusion and poverty. It was among them, however, that I saw the prettiest and cleanest Nubian woman whom I noticed during my travels. She was the wife of the master of the island, and had an infant in her arms; a large healthy child, with fine eyes, and a lighter complexion than usual. Poverty did not seem to interfere with their happiness, their looks and whole manner exhibiting an air of affection not to be put on for show even by greater adepts in dissimulation than they could be supposed to be; and their scanty domains were carefully cultivated. *Selyma*, who seemed to regard us as her subjects, no sooner saw our *kandjia* turn the northern point of *Philæ*, and make for *Biggé*, than she threw herself into the Nile, and swam across, to observe our movements. This is their ordinary mode of passing to and fro. When they have any thing to carry, a palm branch is placed under the breast, as a kind of float, which, from their extraordinary style of swimming, is easily kept in its position, and does not seem to hurt even the women. In their cottage there is a kind of altar, or cippus, which they use as a stand for their culinary utensils. Returning to *Philæ*, we found in the ruins a number of soldiers and young negresses, who appeared to feel

a much deeper interest in what they saw, than the monks whom Belzoni met at Thebes. Departing, at length, however, they left us in peaceable possession of the island for the remainder of the evening.

NOTES.

THE LAZZERETTO OF ALEXANDRIA.

[For the following account of the Lazzeretto, I am indebted to my friend the Rev. Vere Monro, who, though he does not choose to dwell seriously on his own personal sufferings, experienced much ill-treatment and neglect during his confinement, and very narrowly escaped with his life.]

October 13. 1832.

AFTER a passage of six days from Syra, with light and varying winds, we made the low sandy shore of Egypt; but as the brig stood for the old port, a boat put off to demand the papers, containing the harbour master's myrmidons, together with an agent of the house to which she belonged. The language of these people was a mixture of broken Italian and Arabic, scarcely any part of which could be interpreted by the aid of pure Italian alone. Having touched at Constantinople, where the plague was thinning the population to a fearful extent, the brig was ordered to the new port for quarantine. This is on the east side of the town, and being very much exposed to the eastward, and containing little deep water, affords very insecure anchorage even for vessels of small burthen. Our ship was daily visited by some one of her owners, who gave different accounts of the probable term of our durance; some assigning twenty, others forty, days; but nothing certain could be known until after the weekly meeting of the commissioners; for the Pasha had intrusted the enactment of all quarantine regulations to the hands of

five European Consuls, viz. the British, Russian, French, Austrian, and Néapolitan, with full powers to act according to prejudice or discretion: and in the case of the French brig *Cléopâtre*, in which I unfortunately arrived, they seem to have followed the dictates of the former; for, in consequence of an Austrian merchantmen from Constantinople having begun to unload his freight without first declaring himself foul with plague, the gentlemen of the commission *were said* to have determined that all vessels which might afterwards arrive from the same port should find no mercy. Of the Austrian's crew, the captain alone survived, the sailors having all at last fallen a sacrifice to the pestilence. Upon finding that our ship could not land the wool with which she was freighted, because there was no place yet built to receive it, I petitioned to be removed to the *Lazzeretto*, that my term of quarantine might commence immediately. To this request the British Consul replied, that there was at present no accommodation, and he hoped the demand would not be urged further. On the fifth or sixth day after our arrival, I became unwell; and, finding fever and weakness daily growing upon me, renewed my request to the Consul. On the ninth day, the ship having begun to unload her cargo, I was laid upon the woollsacks in the launch, and carried to the *Lazzeretto*, which was situated at a distance of three miles from where the ship lay; and being unable to stand, the sailors deposited me on the sand, in a chamber or shed that had just risen into existence, constructed of boards, but not so closely united as to hinder the inmate from enjoying a prospect of all that passed without, or the wind from fanning him either mildly or mercilessly, according to its temper, which at this season varied extremely, for at times it was furious, bringing with it showers of sand or showers of rain; and the roof of the building, being of wood, was so considerably formed for the free *entrée* of the latter, that my mattress and bedding

were twice soaked through in the night, during my residence in quarantine. A shower in Egypt has a short *reign*, but a merry one. I had, at first, no bed, and, therefore, lodged upon the sand, which, perhaps, of all soils, is the best adapted for this purpose; being easily shaken up, and not lumpy. As evening came on, my senses wandered, and, during the darkness, I rolled about unconscious whither: but when daylight and reason returned, it was obvious how the night had been passed, from the sand which had accumulated upon my hair, face, and clothing. To my application for a bed, the Superintendent could only answer that such luxuries were not provided for the *détenus*, neither did it appear materially to concern him whether I had one or not. Having, moreover, no money in my possession but Turkish coin, which had been proscribed by the Pasha, and had thereby become neither current nor changeable, and my Hammersley's bills being subject to the same quarantine as myself, I was left entirely to nature and cold water, upon which last I drew freely. With this enlivening prospect before me, the disorder gaining strength, whilst my frame became weaker, it seemed probable that I might lay my bones with Pompey's, and, like him, find only an Arab to perform my obsequies, — an indignity which seems to have given great offence to his poor widow: —

“ Manus hoc *Ægyptia* forsan
Obtulit officium grave manibus O!”

Some Arab haply
Put his body
-y under the sod,
Tribute unwelcome to his shade.*

On the second day after that of my landing, however,

* If the above translation does injustice to the original, I humbly beg pardon of the author's memory; but I take it for granted that no one ever read the *Pharsalia* without laughing, — so very problematical does it appear whether it was written in irony or earnest.

Mr. Bell, of Alexandria, to whom I had brought a letter of introduction, having heard of my removal from the ship, without further inquiries sent me a bed and its appurtenances, together with a supply of coffee, rice, chocolate, and other things which it was likely I should most need; and to his humanity and ready assistance, under Providence, I shall ever consider myself indebted for the continuance of my life. On the third day I received a visit from the surgeon of the Lazzeretto, an Italian residing in the town, three miles distant. He is said to be a man of talent, but could not, as might be expected, divine the nature of my complaint, neither could I give him any clue to its discovery, but begged he would give me *polvere Inglese* (James's powder), a medicine only resorted to by Italians in the last extremity. A dose of this taken every hour with some tea, at the end of two days left little doubt as to the disorder. The surgeon repeated his visit, and standing at a distance, and turning back the paploma or counterpane that covered me with a long stick, he desired me to show my wrists, and at once exclaimed, "Ecco'l vajuolo Arabico e per Dio pestifero." Having implicit faith in vaccination as an antidote to small-pox, I stoutly maintained that this was impossible; but as the eruption increased, and soon encased me from head to foot, it was clear that he was not mistaken. The impossibility of sleeping during the night was no small addition to the *désagrémens* of this Lazzeretto residence. In the shed adjoining mine, on one side, were lodged a party of various nations, to the number of fourteen, consisting of Turks, Tartars of the Crimea, Germans, Georgians, Greeks, and one corpulent Venetian, all of whom had arrived in a vessel from Constantinople, and were now kept close prisoners in a space of much smaller dimensions than the Marine Hotel, from which they had been lately released. It being the habit of this party to sleep during the day, the night was devoted to festivity; and this was adjusted

to the taste of each in his own way, and seemed to afford pleasure to all, the Venetian only excepted, who lay sulkily in one corner, surveying the scene as in despair, invoking, to no purpose, the God of Sleep to fall heavy on his eyes, and cursing, with as little effect, the din which never ceased to fall upon his ears. National music was their nightly pastime; and, as soon as I could crawl across my den, the interstices between the boards afforded a view of the different *côteries*, seated or stretched at length, as space or habit might prompt. The Turks, Greeks, and two elderly Georgian ladies were wont to seat themselves round a mat, on which a very young Georgian girl danced to the jingle of a dulcimer, played with a quill by one of the Greeks, and accompanied by their cracked voices. The notes, scarcely sufficient in number to constitute a tune, followed each other in endless repetition without the least variation, while the Turks, occupied with their pipes or *shishes*, would sit from eve till dewy morn, as if unconscious, yet amused with the exhibition. The Georgian girl, who appeared to be under nine years of age, had come to Egypt to be disposed of, under the protection of her chaperon, one of the elderly ladies above mentioned, who, from the keen, cool expression of her visage, was likely to show as much tact and discretion in the barter of her goods as the chaperons of the West. Indeed more; for it never happens that the Eastern dealers have their stock left upon their hands, by asking too much or holding out too long,—an error by no means unfrequent in the Western market. The movements of the dance were slow, and not without grace, but differed essentially from those of the *almé*, in being without indecency. This young creature was occasionally taken to the stockade of the *Lazzeretto*, to exhibit herself upon stilts to the visitors of the Superintendent, whether for purchase or curiosity I know not. The stilts were very long, but light; and her feet being fixed to the inside, the tops of them were bound

round the thigh, or just below the knee; and thus, without any assistance from the hands, she walked about, apparently with great difficulty. In another part of the chamber, the Germans, in defiance of the shrill discord of the Greek music, chanted their lively national airs in a trio, with that taste and harmony for which, as a people, they stand unrivalled in the world. The Tartars also had their hymns. Such were the sedatives to which I was compelled to listen on one side, while on the other were heard continued peals of unearthly sounds, as if the whole orchestra of Hades had mustered to welcome Metternich, or any one else, to a more genial climate. This side of my abode was not boarded to the top; and a long open shed was attached to it, in which were deposited tobacco in truss, and figs in drum, with numerous sacks of wool and cotton. These afforded a bed for a herd of Arabs, who, far from being "hushed by buzzing night-flies to their slumber," were fain to "fright my sleep" with their original melodies; letting forth from the cavities below their collar bones, a shrill, deep, liquid yell, they kept time to it with the clapping of their hands, and produced a combination from which Mozart might have taken some hints for the last scene of his *Rake's Progress*. I complained to the Superintendant, who promised that the club should be requested to break up earlier, and have "all quiet" by two o'clock; but this was never attended to. During the day, sleep was murdered by myriads of flies, which settled and fed voraciously upon the "quod mortale fuit," of my hands and face, and kept me in continual irritation. The Arab guard would sometimes be prevailed upon to sit by me, and, waving a silk handkerchief over my face, keep off or destroy the flies, and enable me to sleep so long as his patience lasted; but finding one day that he had stolen some money, and being too weak to chastise him, I was compelled to call him names, and he would never after take the part of fly-catcher; so that I

was henceforward reduced to wear out the time with the short period of sleep that could be obtained between the cessation of the catches, and the attacks of the flies. This Arab guard resembled a huge ape; and was, in every respect, the most impracticable brute I have ever been concerned with; and, at last, refused to do any thing beyond the offices which he was compelled to by the regulations of the Lazzeretto, viz. to fetch wood and water, and to bring to my den the common necessities of life, without making them available for my service. When the James's powder had thoroughly taken effect, and the surgeon considered he had made me safe, he made me no more visits, and gave no directions for after treatment; and, as a substitute for strengthening medicines, brandy and water appeared to have a most salutary effect. In the next hovel but two to the one I occupied, were six Circassian and Georgian girls, on their way to Cairo for sale; the best of whom was said to be worth from ten to fifteen thousand piastres (125*l.* to 200*l.*); but it is not likely that they would sell for more than half that sum, as ladies were low at that time, and nothing would fetch its price that was not of the *première qualité*. A prime Abyssinian Red was offered to me in exchange for a very ordinary double gun, at Gournou, by a dealer from Sennaar: she was young, short of stature, and very finely formed. The above young ladies were in the hands of a Turk, by whom they were closely watched; and very seldom appeared outside their abode: and this being always open for the admission of light and air, a mat was hung up within as a curtain, to conceal them from view; but, nevertheless, they would sometimes put it aside and peep out, holding across the face the mantle that covers the head, so that the light of one eye only beamed upon the beholder, until, growing bolder by degrees, they would suffer both to shine forth, and then, after a little, the full face would look abroad, dazzling the votary with its glory. But this was again

quickly veiled, not, as I conclude, in mercy, lest the gazer should be unable to support the sight too long, but in prudence, lest the Turk should catch them lessening their value by making their charms public. Having very little to do, I had much curiosity about these ladies; and, whenever I could get out, I generally either lay down on the sand, or paced backwards and forwards within sight of their door; and by this means frequently saw them; for a surtout and round hat, being novelties in dress with which they were unacquainted, appeared to afford them some amusement. Their complexions were very fair, with eyes and hair dark, the form of the face being rather round than oval. Their ancles were coarse, and not well washed; and this is all I know of their persons, except from the report of the surgeon, which, having been made in confidence, cannot be divulged. At the end of twenty-eight days passed within the walls, to my great joy and surprise, the surgeon, with his attendants, entered to congratulate me upon my release; and, after a formal fumigation, all ventured to shake hands. This was the first intimation I received of the duration of my quarantine. I was now so weak from want of sleep, proper food, and exercise, that I could scarcely walk for ten minutes without lying down. But, thanks to God, my constitution remained unimpaired; for, on the fourth day after, I was able to ride to Rosetta, about thirty-six miles, without feeling more fatigue than is always incident to sitting for so long a time upon the wretched apology for a saddle with which the animals of this country are equipped.

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ANECDOTE OF MOHAMMED ALI.

THE following very characteristic anecdote is related at Alexandria concerning the manner in which Mr. Barker, late H. B. M. Consul-general in Egypt, was received by the Pasha. When Mr. Barker, on his arrival at Alexandria, proceeded to the palace to deliver his credentials, his Highness received him very graciously. The usual compliments passed, the dragoman delivered to Boghos Ioussouf, the *Barat*, or "Imperial command," recognising Mr. Barker as British Consul in Alexandria; but this, without even condescending to open it, the Pasha with a sign ordered to be returned to the dragoman. He then entered into very familiar conversation; spoke of four frigates which were building for him at Marseilles and Leghorn, and would be completed in the spring; (it was now November, 1826); and observed that the Greeks never attacked any of his ships; but it was not clear whether he meant that this proceeded from fear or favour. He then spoke in general terms of praise of Mr. Barker's predecessor, Mr. Lee, dwelling particularly on his prudence, and the proofs of understanding which he displayed, by never making any opposition to his Highness's will, or respecting any of his opinions; which, he observed, was matter of no difficulty, since they were only founded in reason and justice. He concluded by observing, — "I will tell you a story: I was born in a village in Albania, and my father had ten children, besides me, who are all dead; but, while living, not one of them ever contradicted me. Although I left my native mountains before I attained to manhood, the principal people in the place never took any step in the business of the commune, without previously inquiring what was my pleasure. I came to this country an obscure adventurer, and when I was yet but a *Bimbashi* (captain), it happened one day that the commissary had to give each of the Bimbashis a tent. They were all my seniors, and naturally pretended to a preference over me; but the officer said, — 'Stand you all by; this youth, Mohammed Ali, shall be served first. And I *was* served first; and I advanced step by step, as it pleased God to ordain; and now here I am' — (rising a little on his seat, and looking out of the window

which was at his elbow, and commanded a view of the Lake Mareotis) — “and now here I am. I never had a master,” — (glancing his eye at the roll containing the *Imperial firman*).

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ON FAMINES IN EGYPT.

I PERCEIVE from the public journals, that the inundation of the Nile was last year insufficient to irrigate the necessary quantity of land ; in which case a famine will most probably ensue. Though these fearful visitations are, perhaps, less frequent, in Egypt than in any other country, they are very far from being unknown there. We find one great dearth described in Genesis ; ancient historians, also, relate many remarkable examples of scarcity, in which, through the deficiency of proper nourishment, the inhabitants fed upon human flesh, though they spared the sacred animals. Several terrible famines are recorded by Jemaleddin, in his “History of Modern Egypt.” In the reign of Almostanser Billah, who succeeded his father Aldhader in A. H. 427, occurred a dearth greater than had been known in the memory of man. A small measure of wheat sold for two golden dinars (nearly £1 sterling), and in a short time the price was again doubled. This, however, was but the beginning of their calamities ; for all the usual articles of food at length failing, they openly devoured human flesh, dogs, and the bodies of the dead. The dogs which remained, rendered furious by hunger, broke into the houses, and tore to pieces the children in the sight of their parents, who were too weak to defend them. In the street Altabek, the most elegant in Cairo, twenty houses, the meanest valued at a thousand dinars, were sold for a small quantity of bread. This calamity occurred thrice in two years. It is related by Ben Aljouzi, that a lady of great opulence and distinction, taking four measures of Jewels in her hand, went forth into the streets, exclaiming, “Who will give me corn for these gems?” No person attending to her cries, she thus spake : — “Since ye cannot aid me in my distress, what need have I of you?” and with the words she cast them into the street, where they were suffered to remain ; no person regarding them. Almostanser exhausted the public treasures in alleviating the miseries of his people ;

priests ; there flowers, symbols, and sacred animals : they are grouped and separate, at sacrifice and at prayer. There is Apis, Isis, and Ibis ; Osiris, Horus, and Anubis : the crux, the lotus, the passive lion, and the hawk ; and these in all forms and shapes, and under the most fanciful varieties. In one place is seen the mitred head of a lion, ending in petticoats below, *risum teneatis* ? and seated with all the dignity of Dido. Here *the irresistible power of beauty* appears represented upon an inverted principle. Near this latter figure is a graceful-looking youth, who, to personify the impudence of his age, is endued with the head of a dog. Rapacity is exhibited in a small active mortal, with the face of a hawk ; meanness and falshood are sheltered under the bare lank neck and crouching head of the Ibis ardea ; or, it may be, that the lion-headed lady, who, being seated, is doubtless a goddess, represents the power and beauty of religion ; the other figures, the divers depravities of those who professed to be her votaries. At all events, these things always were, and still remain, mysteries ; and, until they are satisfactorily explained, every man has a right to make what he pleases of them. We are told this *dénouement* is about to be made by one who has well qualified himself for the task, by a fourteen years residence in their neighbourhood. He may, perhaps, hit upon a different hypothesis from mine, and possibly a more plausible one ; but, as I before said, every man has a right to his own speculations, and no one can say that mine are more fanciful than the combinations which have given rise to them. Diodorus remarks, that every thing relative to this adoration of beasts is wonderful, and, indeed, incredible ; that it is exceedingly difficult to discover the true grounds of this superstition ; and that the key to the mysteries was in possession of the priests alone. From hence it is to be inferred, that he did not comprehend them, nor believe in the popular interpretations. The right understanding of these monsters, is so essential to the comprehension of the monsters who contrived them, that the world must ever feel indebted to those who have devoted their time and talents to the examination. It is to be lamented, however, that certain doctrines have taken root in Grand Cairo, which do infinite injustice to the characters of departed historians, both sacred and profane. Herodotus is styled a madman, a foolish young man, &c. Awake ! arise, Olympian judges ! recal your misplaced honours. But the arch fabulist of all, according to eastern views, is Moses. The miraculous events

recorded in the Pentateuch are disbelieved, in order to rescue the Deity from the charge of being whimsical ; and those, therefore, who affect to vindicate the consistency of the Almighty, would do it, forsooth, at the expense of his veracity ; as if the Creator of the universe were prohibited by his creatures from overstepping the bounds which their finite comprehension would prescribe. But all this is old. Among other useful discoveries, some gentlemen of Cairo have ascertained that Pharaoh was not drowned in the Red Sea ; which would also prove David to be unworthy of credit. It is said these antiquarians have discovered his mummy, which is now on its way to England. But even this will not aid their hypothesis ; for a reward would naturally be offered for the king's body, and when recovered, we may presume it would be decently interred.—*Monro's Journal.*

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KALABSHI.

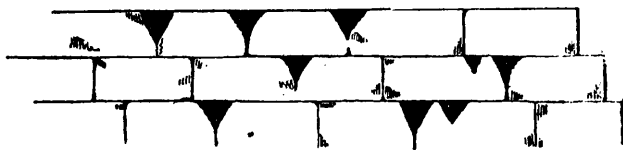
[The following Note, on the various modes of accounting for the holes in the Coliseum walls, is extracted from the MS. Journal of the Rev. Vere Monro.]

THE walls and columns of this temple are pierced with numerous holes like those in the Colosseum at Rome ; for which, it seems, antiquarians have not agreed in assigning any certain indisputable cause. At least, I have heard more than one hypothesis started and supported. The resemblance between the appearance of the holes in the Colosseum and those at Kalabshi, is so close, that if any decisive conclusion could be arrived at with regard to the latter, it might do something towards confirming or confuting the theories that are applied to the former.

These holes do not appear to have been the work of religious zeal in order to deface or disfigure the temple, because it may be presumed that the sculptured figures of the Egyptian Deities would have been the principal objects of such vengeance ; whereas, in many places, the plain surface of the stone has been cut into, while the figures within a few inches have been left untouched. Sometimes a hand or foot has been cut away, and the important parts of the body have escaped. There

are some incisions in the *columns* where are no figures; also in the *staircase*, which has not even been finished, part of the surface having been left in a rough state, like the outsides of the palazzi at Florence. In the S. E. corner of the furthest division of the cella, called by Burckhardt the "*chamber beyond the Adytum*," is a small aperture never likely to have been entered by any but a persevering man, and almost impracticable for any but a lean one. It is about eighteen inches square. We crawled through it, and, lighting candles, found ourselves in a closet five feet three inches each way. In the wall opposite the entrance was another aperture, smaller than the one by which we had entered; I crawled through this also, and found another chamber longer and narrower than the first. Belzoni says, these were probably intended for the confinement of wild beasts; Burckhardt supposes they were designed for the accommodation of wild priests. In the first of these, I observed one hole only, but exactly corresponding with those without, and apparently made with the same object. Now here there are no figures to deface, and few people were likely to see and attest the proofs of zeal that had been at work, and therefore this was not a place that would have been selected for such a purpose. In the subterranean temple close at hand, the walls of which are covered with sculptures, there are no holes — religious zealots would not have spared these figures. Again, the holes are cut to a great depth, reaching even beyond the thickness of the first stone. If defacement were the only object, this would be a needless waste of time, and the enthusiasts would surely have had recourse to the same means as at Dendera, where many of the figures of the portico and the wall have been effectually chiselled out from head to foot at very little expense of time or labour. Another conjecture at Rome is, that they may have been the places where the scaffolding was fixed for the erection of the building. At Kalabshi, they are found piercing in some instances the best figures of the temple — an act of barbarity which it is not to be supposed the builders would have committed upon their own work. Besides which, it is clear the Egyptians did not execute their sculptures until the chamber, or at least each wall, had been in every other respect completed. Some have supposed the appearances in the Colosseum are to be attributed to the means by which the stucco has been fixed in casing it. This could not have been the case at Kalabshi — cement originally has not been used there, and that which has been laid on at a later

period, when the temple was converted into a Greek church, has been barely thick enough to conceal the sculptures, and therefore holes of so great a depth as the present would be unnecessary. They are not at regular intervals; — sometimes there are many near together, and two in the same stone, while a large surface is without any. Moreover, the interior of the holes shows no appearance of any composition within them; whereas in places the edges of them bear marks of the plaster, making it appear that the *holes are of later date than the plaster*. But the theory which finds most supporters at Rome, and the most probable one, is that they are the work of barbarians for the purpose of extracting the metal cramps by which the stonework has been kept together. At Kalabshi, this belief may be better supported than any other. The cornice of the cella has been thrown down in many places, and the frieze and even the courses of the wall exposed. Upon these the sockets for the metal cramps are still visible; and it may be presumed that they have been generally used throughout the building. Upon examining the holes, it appears that they are almost invariably cut at the junction of the courses, and always in the lower stone, the upper one being left almost entirely untouched; *i.e.* they are always at the top of the stone in each course; thus —



And this seems to be the most natural way of proceeding in order to get at the metal, which would necessarily be imbedded in that part of the stone.

The holes at Kalabshi do not resemble those in the temples at Philæ, and elsewhere, where they are of a regular form and at regular intervals, and have been made to support the rafters of cottages and their appendages, the remains of which are abundantly scattered about near them. In the old gate at Treves, incisions of the same description as those of Kalabshi are found.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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